FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL HOIDS MEETING IN DAMASCUS

JN120626 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] The PLO Central Council held a meeting in Damascus last night under Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum. Leader Abu 'Ammar also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, discussions centered on recent developments on the Arab and international levels, and on the Palestinian level in particular. The participants also reviewed the results of the summit meeting between Abu 'Ammar, Bruno Kreisky and Willy Brandt. The PLO Central Council members then discussed and reviewed the council's activities since November 1978, when the council held its last session.

Ongoing Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon was among the most important issues discussed. Regarding conditions prevailing in the occupied territories, the participants praised highly the Palestinian people's steadfastness and confrontation against the self-rule plot. The council members underlined that the Palestinian people's solidarity inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora and their rallying around the PLO will foil all plots and designs aimed at the Palestinian question.

Al-Fahum Statement

JN121031 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 12 August--The PLO Central Council ended its meeting early today. Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council [PNC] chairman, has made the following statement to a SANA correspondent on the outcome of this meeting:

The PLO Central Council has held a meeting in Damascus to discuss the current political situation and to consolidate the Palestinian national unity. After eulogizing martyr Zuhayr Muhsin, the council listened to a comprehensive political report compiled by brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander-in-chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. The report dealt with the Executive Committee's recent political activities including the Vienna meeting. The report also dealt with the new plots that are being hatched by the Camp David alliance against the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories and against the Arab nation and the Middle East. These plots are manifested by Israeli acts of terrorism against our people inside the occupied territories and in the barbaric military attacks on the Lebanese and Palestinian people in Lebanon with U.S. collusion and U.S. arms, including those which are internationally banned.

The PLO Central Council stressed the need to complete the unity steps among the resistance factions. The council valued the steps which have been achieved to date, including the participation of the Palestinian popular struggle front and the Palestine liberation front in the PLO Central Council's work and in the activities of the other organization's institutions. The council also valued the Executive Committee's activities and contacts on all local, Arab and international levels.

The council adopted several recommendations to continue these activities, particularly during the nonalined conference in Havana and the 37th UN session in accordance with the principles adopted by all our national councils.

The PLO Central Council stressed the need to abide by the firm national Palestinian rights as defined by the PLO political program, particularly their right to return, to determine their future and to establish their independent state. The council asserted its rejection of every resolution that does not include these rights or impairs these rights.

The PLO Central Council warned against U.S. attempts aimed at weakening the Arab steadfastness, sowing discord and diverting attention from the real danger--the Camp David accords and the self-rule plans.

The council expressed admiration for the heroic steadfastness of our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples vis-a-vis continued Zionist aggressions, and the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories and their rejection of the so-called liquidationist self-rule plan. The council also expressed admiration for the valiant popular confrontation against the settlement plans. It affirmed the Palestinian people's rallying around their legitimate and sole leadership represented in the PLO.

The PLO Central Council's 9-hour meeting was attended by all the Palestinian revolution factions.

AL-FAHUM DISCUSSES PNC DELEGATION'S JORDAN VISIT

JN110618 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Brother Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council [PNC] chairman, has described his talks with high-ranking Jordanian officials as fruitful and useful. He added that there was an identity of views on the need to support the Baghdad summit resolutions and intensify the Arab solidarity.

Brother al-Fahum praised Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation and its role in strengthening the steadfastness of our people inside the occupied homeland and in encouraging joint Arab action. He added that brother leader Abu 'Ammar will visit Jordan soon to meet with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. The visit will be within the context of consultations and coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships.

The PNC chairman reiterated the PLO's rejection of Security Council Resolution 242.

Brother al-Fahum concluded his 3-day visit to Jordan yesterday. During the visit he held talks with King Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni.

PLO TO CALL FOR SPECIAL UN SESSION IF U.S. USES VETO

JN101835 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 10 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Brother Zuhdi at-Tarazi, PLO UN representative, has announced that the PLO will call for a special urgent session of the UN General Assembly if the United States uses the veto at the UN Security Council to prevent a vote on the draft resolution to establish a Palestinian state.

He said that on 23 August he will submit a proposal to the Security Council calling for its approval of establishment of a Palestinian state. Brother at-Tarazi added that if the United States vetoes this resolution, the PLO will ask the nonalined states, during their meeting in Havana, to call the UN General Assembly into session. He explained that the PLO will leave the date of the official call for the UN General Assembly emergency session to be fixed by the UN committee on the Palestinian Arab people's exercise of their inalienable rights.

PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY REJECTS U.S. STATEMENTS

JN130711 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 13 Aug 79 JN

[Text] The political commentator of the Palestine news agency has declared that the Palestinian revolution realizes well that the Palestinian state cannot be established either by charity or through a grant, particularly from the United States--the enemy of liberation and peace. He said the Palestinian state can only be established through further struggle and as a result of changing the balance of power by the fighters.

The political commentator of the Palestine news agency said that the Palestinian revolution places no hopes on Washington's or President Carter's stands. He emphasized that the revolution will not fall victim to deceptive U.S. statements, sometimes using temptation and at other times intimidation, with the aim of dragging the Palestinian revolution into the same position into which the U.S. administration has dragged traitorous President Anwar as-Sadat.

Concluding his statement, the political commentator says that the United States can only be against the aspirations, hopes and goals of our people and nation in their desire to achieve liberation, progress and democracy and to live under a durable and just peace.

RABBUH TERMS TALK ABOUT PLO-U.S. DIALOG 'A MANEUVER'

JN121944 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has said that all talks about a dialog between the PLO and Washington is a maneuver to weaken the Arab stand and sow divisions between the Palestinians and the Arab states. He said the U.S. maneuver aims at distracting attention from opposition to the Camp David accords and to the self-rule plan. He said that the PLO will reject such a dialog as long as Washington refuses to recognize the PLO and the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY TO HEAD PLO MILITARY DEPARTMENT

JN110759 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Aug 79 p 1 JN

[Text] PLO Central Council Secretary Sami al-'Attari has said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will take charge of the PLO Military Department in addition to his other duties until a successor to the late Zuhayr Muhsin is chosen.

Al-'Attari told AD-DUSTUR that it is not appropriate now to talk about a successor because 40 days have not yet passed since Muhsin's death. He added: Such a matter requires party and organizational decisions which have not yet been discussed.

KUWAIT

AL-WATAN CALLS FOR OPEC INTERVENTION IN EXCHANGE MARKET

LD100935 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 7 Aug 79 P 6 LD

[Unattributed article: "Why Does Not OPEC Intervene in the Money Exchange Market?"]

[Text] Who suffers most from the drop in the dollar exchange rate?

Is it the United States? The answer is in the negative, because the dollar's fall to "a reasonable level" means that U.S. goods in foreign markets become cheaper, and therefore, U.S. exports increase and the U.S. balance of payments improves.

Is it the industrial states? The answer is in the negative as well; because the fall of the dollar to "a reasonable level" means that they can obtain oil cheaper since oil transactions are conducted in dollars.

Is it the OPEC countries? The answer is "yes" for the same reasons, particularly since oil is almost their only resource.

Nevertheless, we hear every day about intervention by the central banks of the industrial states--the Swiss National Bank, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan and the German Bundesbank--in the money market, by either selling dollars or buying them. Each of these banks aims to keep the dollar at a rate that achieves the best benefits for them.

The one to suffer most is OPEC. It is no more than an impotent observer. All it does when the dollar drops is to threaten to abandon the dollar and to price oil on the basis of a basket of currencies or special drawing rights. We are fed up with hearing this.

If the oil must be priced on a dollar basis then why do the OPEC countries not use part of their vast assets to set up a special fund under the control and administration of capable financiers and use this fund in order to intervene in the money exchange market in support of the dollar? This is the least that can be done.

If the basic objective of the establishment of OPEC is to insure the rights of the oil-exporting countries, then these rights can be insured not only by hiking oil prices, but also by preserving the oil revenues against erosion caused by inflation and dollar decline.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES REPORTS ON CONFERENCE BETWEEN GULF, EEC

JN110945 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 11 August--A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has denied that Kuwait proposed holding a conference between the oil-producing Gulf states and EEC.

In a statement published by AL-ANBA' today, the source said what is being published about this subject is not true. The source was commenting on reports about the existence of a joint Kuwaiti-French initiative to hold a Gulf-European conference.

The source has also denied reports that the FRG had conveyed its desire to France that the other industrial countries--the United States, Canada, and Japan--be acquainted with all stages pertaining to the aforementioned conference. He said that Bonn had never thought of asking these countries to participate in the conference.

The responsible source expects that detailed explanations will be released during the next 2 days on this subject.

PDRY

SUPREME PEOPLE'S COUNCIL STATEMENT ON CABINET RESHUFFLE

LD122012 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, yesterday evening issued a statement on the results of the extraordinary session of the council held yesterday, Saturday. The statement reads:

The Supreme People's Council held an extraordinary session under the chairmanship of Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Council, on Saturday, 11 August 1979.

The session was held under delicate and difficult Arab and international circumstances, as the peace-loving forces are waging a persistent struggle for peace and international stability and to curb world imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces. At the same time the Arab revolution calls for expanding the progressive, revolutionary and nationalist forces and [word indistinct] the popular and nationalist movement to resist the ferocious imperialist and reactionary onslaughts that have registered temporary successes and are now striving to give a permanent form to these gains and transform the balance of power in our region for their benefit through the American-Zionist as-Sadat alliance. They are attempting to plant the spirit of the traitorous capitulatory treaty and its arrangments in the entire region.

The democratic nationalist regime under its political leadership is conscious and aware of the situation and the dangers that may emerge directly from it, which could affect our Arab and Yemeni causes and the security, stability and safety of the region. The political leadership is also aware of the consequences of the successes of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs on the struggle of our Arab nation for the liberation of our occupied Arab territory; the legitimate rights of our Palestinian Arab people, their right to self-determination, the establishment of their own independent state in the territory of their homeland under the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative; and for the sake of maintaining the independence and sovereignty of our Arab countries and their indisputable right to control their potential and resources.

Faced with these imminent and increasing dangers and in order to achieve these current and urgent goals, the political leadership of our progressive nationalist regime realized the importance of the unity of the progressive and democratic forces in every Arab country, each on its own, and their unity on the pan-Arab level.

In light of the report presented by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, on [word indistinct] the international, Arab and Yemeni situations, the council expresses its appreciation for the effective role being played by the PDRY and the YSP in the international and Arab arenas to achieve these objectives and to deepen and give root to their nature, which is opposed to the designs and plots of world imperialism and reaction, in particular the designs of American imperialism and the increasing onslaughts of Zionism and reaction in our region.

The council appreciates the contents of the report of Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, regarding the common efforts of the political leadership in the two parts of Yemen and the unity committee in laying down the foundations of the unity of Yemen.

The council endorsed the analysis of the brother chairman of the Presidium that the 14th of October revolution will continuously grow thanks to the pioneering role of the YSP, the vanguard of the revolution, since it consistently stands in support of the fateful causes of the revolution and the homeland and finds correct and sound solutions to all the natural difficulties facing the revolution on the political, economic and social arenas. This demonstrated that in all circumstances the YSP is the rock on which the suspect dreams of the enemies will be destroyed.

The revolution is moving steadily and firmly toward the achievement of the tasks entrusted to it.

The council has made several organizational decisions to strengthen the authority of the state and strengthen its central organizations by giving them more executive powers and to realize the aspirations and wishes of our broad masses for progress, prosperity and a flourishing and happy tomorrow.

Among the decisions adopted was the formation of a committee of state security under the chairmanship of brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the political bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The Supreme People's Council as it concludes this extraordinary session appeals to all the toiling masses of our people to do their utmost to work harder and produce more in order to defend the Yemeni revolution, implement the 5-year plan and achieve Yemeni unity.

The Supreme People's Council issued five decisions during its last evening sessions. The first provided for the election of brother Dr Muhammad Awad as-Sadi and brother Taha 'Ali Salih as members of the Presidium, in place of Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah and Mahmud Sa'id al-Madhi.

The second decision provided for the election of the following brothers as members of the Council of Ministers:

Minister of Fish Resources	Anis Hasan Yahya
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Salim Salih Muhammad
Minister of Interior	'Ali Shayi Hadi
Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform	Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah
Minister of Finance	Mahmud Sa'id al-Madhi
Minister of Planning	Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim

The third decision provided for the cancellation of the post of the minister of state for security and the formation of a committee to be called the State Security Committee under the chairmanship of brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The fourth decision provided for the election of an economic and administrative committee for the Supreme People's Council as follows:

Chairman	Dr Muhammad Awad as-Sadi
Member	Faysal ibn Shamlan
Member	Mahmud Tarmin
Member	(Salih Muhammad Ajrum)
Member	(Ahmad Salih al-Isi)

The decisions are operational from date of issue and will be published in the official gazette.

The Supreme People's Council also endorsed the decision of the Presidium relating to relieving Brother Muhammad Salim Akush of the post of minister of fish resources.

MENA QUOTES OBSERVERS ON POWER STRUGGLE IN PDRY

NC111756 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 11 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Aden, 11 Aug--Reports indicate that a strong dispute has broken out between the chairman [of the Supreme People's Council] of the PDRY, 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il, on the one hand, and Council of Ministers Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Defense Minister 'Ali Antar, on the other. The dispute broke out after they had agreed on the method by which they will complete their unity with Northern Yemen. Whereas 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il calls for using all means, including violence and revolution, the other two advocate using peaceful methods and giving a chance to quiet penetration of sectors of Yemeni society.

Observers believe there are other matters in the background which threaten a possible explosion of the struggle, particularly since all those who hold the reins of power have started gathering their forces. Thus, Minister of Planning 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, who is well-known for his shrewdness, [words indistinct] Abd al-Fatah Isma'il, in drawing some followers of former President Salim Rubayyi' to 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il's side.

Furthermore, the return of Interior Minister Salih Muslih from Moscow--after he was scheduled to be appointed ambassador there--has intensified the struggle. It has also transpired that a test of will is going on among the leaders of Aden toward 'Ali Nasir, in making political statements without recourse to the PDRY chairman. [sentence as received] This attitude was demonstrated by the incident involving the dismissal of four officers without the knowledge of the defense minister. The PDRY minister for state security was later dismissed and the four officers reinstated to their posts in order to please the defense minister.

The chairman of the PDRY [Supreme People's Council] was forced to declare a state of alert among his special guard, which numbers about 2,000 armed with small transmitters. This attests to the atmosphere of mistrust currently prevailing among the leaders of Aden.

Observers wonder to whom the balance will tip in this struggle. While 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il is in a power center thanks to the Soviet presence, 'Ali Antar represents the dark horse due to his rashness and his ambitions for leadership. The Soviets, on the other hand, are interested in a leader who enjoys popular support, which 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il does not have at the moment.

Observers note that it is impossible to guess what took place during 'Ali Nasir's 3-week visit to Moscow or what agreements were reached during that visit.

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMENTATOR DEFENDS OPEC, ASSAILS OIL COMPANIES

LD111602 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Hashim 'Abdu Hashim commentary]

[Text] With the ending of the session of the planning committee for drawing up a new strategy for OPEC in Ta'if, the situation stands as follows:

Within the organization there is full awareness of the importance of making preparations for the next phase in a manner conforming to the nature of the challenges and the dimensions of the dangers that have recently become more serious. These have manifested themselves in threats, pressures and maneuvres.

Outside the organization one encounters contradictory attitudes. On one hand, urgent measures are being taken to ration the use of energy and to rationalize consumption, and on the other there are incessant and serious attempts to link the position of oil in the international market with the volume of commercial exchange between the oil states and the food-exporting states, particularly those producing wheat.

While the conduct of the producing and consuming states is governed by the realities of this situation and the nature of current circumstances, there is a third party who is exploiting the extremely serious, tense and contradictory situation at the expense of the producing states. This party is represented by the oil companies, whose control of the means of distribution so greatly affects the international market as to create many problems.

How often we have warned that these companies are following parallel policies. They are amassing huge oil reserves, which they plan to keep in storage in order to put pressure on the market. And this is in the face of the growing urgency of the daily needs of private individuals, industries and the development of communities. And at the same time they are exerting pressure on the oil-rich regions to tempt them to increase their production with lies about growing demands and market needs for a greater quantity than that which is produced at present.

As evidence of this it may be pointed out that the American companies alone achieved in the second quarter of this year an average profit of 68.9 percent, while those participating in the oil industries secured a profit averaging 19.4 percent compared with 18.6 percent achieved by the largest 100 major oil companies. [as heard]

This very briefly means:

1. World production of oil does not go directly for consumption, but passes through accounting processes determined by profit-and-loss conditions of the international companies that control the oil industry; and,

2. The shortfall arising from the difference between average production and consumption is in fact kept in stockpiled reserves to insure the continuation of their ability to control world markets at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner.

On the political side, the direct aim of this serious conduct is to insulate public opinion of the consumer states from the truth of the oil companies' blatant exploitation and to portray the oil states as arbitrarily using this wealth as a means of pressure by determining prices and controlling the world market in order to achieve strategic gains in favor of their national questions.

It is true that the oil states, especially the Arab ones, suffer from indifferent international attitudes toward their lawful rights. It is also true that oil, as an important source of energy in the world, can be used to impose these rights or at least neutralize the public opinion that sympathizes with our enemies with regard to these rights. But the oil states have never indulged in this game or tried to use their wealth as a bargaining chip for one reason--because they believe their clear national questions are capable of imposing themselves upon all states and peoples of the world without the need for additional pressure.

Therefore, we do not need, at least for the present, to use this means for directly influencing the political decisions of the great powers or, in particular, of the industrial powers. We hope these states and powers will not compel us to use it one day. We have not lost all the means we possess and have not placed our last card on the table. The Arab nation has many cards it can play when necessary to win firmly and decisively. At the same time we shall not be drawn into a dangerous game, the final dimensions of which have already been drawn up. Nor will we play the oil card to enable them to achieve an objective, the consequences of which we are aware. God willing, we shall never enable them to achieve it.

While sufficiently rallying around our common destinies, coordination such as that witnessed in the town of Ta'if can insure that the organization will carefully weigh its conduct and achieve many of its objectives in spite of all the furor being raised about it in order to provoke and goad it.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE PLO IN TALKS

LD121720 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

["An Event and a Talk" program, prepared by Hashim Abdu Hashim and presented by Abdallah Rajih]

[Text] There is much talk these days about the role the present peace efforts can play with the PLO's participation in or absence from any negotiations. There have been several indications that Washington is now willing to see the PLO participate in a practical way in these talks. There was no method by which this participation might take place, without stirring up a duststorm in the attempt, other than by introducing other parties or using American, German, French or British elements initially in feeling the pulse of senior Palestinian officials and finding out the dimensions of a positive attitude in the light of recent developments. It is clear that the efforts aimed at using Arab countries to bring the PLO to the American table of dialog has failed, because Arab countries agree that peace based on fears and [word indistinct] cannot achieve the desired stability and cannot last.

In the face of Arab rejection, Kissinger's trip and that of Strauss were followed by other attempts which took two forms: Yasir 'Arafat was invited to meet Kreisky and Brandt in Vienna. This meeting was a significant step because of the circumstances in which it was held. The attempt in itself reflected a new conviction that the United States is no longer the only side which should embark on the peace operation, because it holds all the cards, as claimed by some of the parties which rushed to the partial steps toward peace. The other form was represented when West Bank mayors were invited to Washington to discuss methods, ways and possible paths to the peace planned by the superpowers. [as heard] At the same time, recent pressures on the PLO, whether to force it to recognize Israel as a price for American talks with it or as a beginning toward including elements from the PLO in the talks, caused the Palestinian National Council to meet and reject all forms of bargaining aimed at drawing the PLO into a peaceful solution through basic concessions, beginning with complete acceptance of the Zionist entity in Palestine, which will virtually mean a weakening of the possibility of demanding a Palestinian state.

When the PLO rejects this involvement attempt it does so because it grasps that the price of recognizing Israel is higher than the price of continued struggle. Yet the PLO, like other Arab countries, by no means rejects steps toward a just peace.

Maybe the question is: How then can the PLO be allowed to contribute to the peace operation? The answer is brief: When the nature of the steps that can follow the required Palestinian recognition is defined and when those steps guarantee all Palestinian rights, the return of usurped Arab lands to the Arab nation, the purging of Jerusalem and granting the struggling Palestinian people their complete right to self-determination and establishing their independent state on liberated Palestinian soil.

Otherwise, what is the importance of Washington's or Tel Aviv's agreement to sit at the same table with the PLO to discuss peace? What gain can the Palestine cause make if the Americans and Zionists accept the principle of dialog and do not adhere to defined principles, whose practical implementation can be dealt with during the negotiations?

These two questions are the basis which the PLO, or indeed any Arab side which respects its commitment to the cause, can accept or which make the PLO embark on an adventure like this whose consequences are unknown. This adventure, we fear, is aimed at drawing the PLO toward recognizing an unjust existence at the expense of all Arab rights in the region.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS MOVE TO AMEND UNSC RESOLUTION 242

LD122220 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] Observers are discussing reports concerning three proposed formulas for amending UN Security Council Resolution 242 to make it possible for the Palestinian people to participate in the process of finding a durable just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There has been a great deal of talk lately about a European move with American support for amending UN Security Council Resolution 242, which the Palestinians refuse to accept in its present form because it centers on the right of the refugees to return to their homes, but ignores the very existence of the Palestinians as a people with an entity of their own--a fact recognized by the world community.

The Palestinians are correct in refusing to accept the resolution which fails to recognize them. It is not correct to ask them to recognize a resolution of this type and to stipulate such a recognition as a condition for dealing with them directly as the American administration is doing.

However, this stipulation does not provide sufficient proof of an absolute rejection by the Americans to deal with the Palestinians. For should this be the case, it would set a precedent which would have reverberations on the efforts for a lasting peace, which cannot be achieved in the absence of the party with the greater importance and effect--the Palestinians.

The U.S. administration is fully aware of this fact despite the rigidness it shows. This rigidness cannot be taken as a final stand, otherwise the matter would be very grave. The Americans are convinced of the rights of the Palestinian people and the injustices the Palestinians have suffered at the hands of their enemy who robbed them of their land and chased them in order to end their existence. The enemy has failed to succeed in this and will never do so.

The Americans, however, are moving cautiously taking into consideration the close bonds between them and Israel based on the game of balance, which so far has been in favor of Israel. But it is not difficult for the American administration to act on the right course out of its, hitherto undeclared, desire to start a dialog with the Palestinians to find out their views.

The views of the Palestinians should have been sought many years ago. Dealing with the people with vested rights must lead in the end to acceptable formulas. But Israel fiercely rejects such dealings because it realizes the seriousness of dealing with the Palestinians. The pro-Israel information media concentrate on deepening the gap in the views between the Palestinians and the Americans as much as possible. Surely, the American administration can never condone such an action.

UAE

AFGHAN NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS

JN121254 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 August--An Afghan National Liberation Front delegation led by Shaykh ('Abd al-Ahad 'Abd as-Samad), one of the leaders of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, began talks today with UAE officials in the Ministry of Justice, Islamic and Awqaf Affairs to discuss the possibility of offering material and moral support to the Muslim revolutionaries in their struggle against President Nur Mohammad Taraki's regime.

The Afghan delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening on a several days' visit to the UAE as part of its tour of a number of states in the region.

YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH GIVES INTERVIEW TO AL-FAJR

JN101526 Sana'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 79 JN

["Text" of interview given by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to a correspondent of the UAE paper AL-FAJR, published in its 8 August issue]

[Excerpts] Question: What have the committees in charge of unity between the two parts of Yemen accomplished? When will unity be announced?

Answer: The committees are holding meetings in San'a' and Aden. They have made great progress in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to them. We urge all the committees to end their work soon and in the desired manner, which reflects the Yemeni people's will and establishes their unity on the bases and principles agreed upon in the Cairo agreement and the Tripoli and Kuwait statements. As for the date when the establishment of the unity state will be announced, this is a matter that will be decided in light of the committees' meetings and of the general referendum on the constitution of the united state. The issue of unity is so important that it cannot tolerate improvised decisions or steps that portend setbacks and retreats. It is reassuring that all of us in both parts of the Yemeni homeland are working for the sake of unity and to complete the study and definition of all factors and components of the united state and its nature. We all hope that unity will be achieved today, rather than tomorrow.

Question: While approaching Yemeni unity, does the state intend to establish a party with a theoretical bent that is compatible with the ideology and aims of the 26 September revolution?

Answer: We have no such idea at the moment. Our big dream today is to complete the remaining steps necessary to lay down sound bases for the true democracy to which we aspire. This can be achieved through serious preparation for general free and direct elections, leading to an elected people's assembly. We consider this step a great and important gain for the revolution along the path of further economic and social growth, as well as on the path of boosting political stability and general freedom. As I have told you, the constitution of the united state will represent the ambitions and aspirations of the Yemeni people in both parts. It will also define the political structure or medium to be adopted in the people's interest, taking advantage of the past experiences of both parts in a manner that does not contradict the aims of the great September revolution.

Question: Given the contradicting circumstances in the two parts of the one Yemen in the political, economic and ideological fields, how can these problems be overcome in order to achieve the desired unity under suitable circumstances?

Answer: We have the Cairo agreement, the Tripoli statement and the Kuwait statement. All these important documents contain the principles on which the united state should be based. Adherence to these principles and to what the committees have achieved can solve all discrepancies and problems.

Question: From what lessons did your forces benefit in the recent border battles?

Answer: We do not consider that which took place on the border between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland a battle in the sense you indicate, because in such battles there is neither winner nor loser, as both the killer and the killed are Yemenis and the ruin and destruction took place in Yemeni territory. What we have learned from them generally is that understanding and logical dialog are the true way of ending all problems that may exist between the two parts, due to the nature of our division. Understanding and dialog are also the only means acceptable to the Yemeni masses for reestablishing Yemeni unity.

Question: What has happened to the Soviet [as heard] arms deal concluded by Saudi Arabia for Yemen? Does the deal include F-5 planes?

Answer: I think you mean the U.S. weapons, which were subject to conflicting reports in the papers. These papers tried to come to the conclusions they desired. Therefore, I want to make it clear here that we in the YAR follow a policy that is open to both the East and the West. Our foreign relations with the Soviet Union and the United States are clear, as they are with all the Eastern and Western states, carried out in a manner that serves our country's interests and independence and based on mutual respect. We have adopted the principle of diversifying our arms sources due to our eagerness to complete the building of our armed forces.

Question: Do you conceive a fifth war with the Israeli enemy, in which the Arabs take the initiative, should all peaceful attempts to give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights fail? Are the Arabs able to face a new war at this stage, now that we know that Egypt has announced that the October War is the last one with the Israeli enemy?

Answer: In face of the continued Israeli intransigence and as a result of the colonialist settlement policy adopted by Israel as the principle underlying its treachery and aggression--as is taking place today in the southern territory of Arab Lebanon--we think that the Arabs should adopt all means of struggle, for this is the final resort for rectifying the course and finding a just solution to the Middle East issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian Arab people's just cause. We believe that as Arabs we can wage more than one decisive battle against the Israeli enemy, as long as we can coordinate our forces and marshal our material, moral and human potential. This is what we have to prepare and work for.

Question: What alternative do the Arabs have for foiling the peace treaty? What are your expectations of this treaty's destiny?

Answer: The resolutions that have been adopted to date--of course, we mean the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference, as well as the resolutions and recommendations of the foreign and economy ministers' meeting in Baghdad--cannot be considered a comprehensive alternative, though they are an important practical step. It is more important to strengthen the comprehensive strategy agreed upon by all Arabs and in which the required roles and duties of every state are accurately and clearly defined, so that these states can exercise their pan-Arab duty with a clear vision.

AS-SADAT SPEECH AT MEETING WITH TEACHERS, TRADERS, LAWYERS

NC121530 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1313 GMT on 12 August broadcasts a recording of the 80-minute speech by Anwar as-Sadat at his meeting with representatives from the teachers', traders', and lawyers' unions on 11 August. As-Sadat begins by apologizing for his poor voice because of a cold and says that he will try to make some points regarding what the doyens of the three unions had said. He then notes that now is the most glorious period in Egypt's history, saying that today Egypt is laying down a new basis where nothing separates the ruler from the ruled. He says that each person must speak his opinion about Egypt's future, noting that if this is the only result of these meetings then he will consider them a great success. He says that they would thus establish the principle that no ruler can make a decision alone without each person expressing an opinion.

He then notes that the lawyers' doyen had mentioned the closing of the detention camps, and As-Sadat says that he closed them in 1971 and is again asking the people not to allow them to be reopened. He says that the Egyptian people should not permit any fateful decisions unless their opinion has been expressed, noting that those in the vocational and trade unions represent the vanguard.

Recounting old history, As-Sadat says that imperialism no longer dominates Egypt's fate and then goes into an account of Egypt's fate at the hands of the pashas, which he says ended for good on 23 July 1952. He then reiterates the reasons for the 23 July revolution and discusses the six principles of the revolution. He says that the revolution failed to fulfill the sixth principle--establishment of a sound democratic life--and that he was one of those responsible for this. However, As-Sadat says that they corrected the course in May 1971 and then asks that all present promise not to allow anyone to undermine the Egyptian people's right to self-determination.

As-Sadat says that people might differ within the Egyptian family, but we must see to it that these differences are for the good of the family and not personal differences, which would divide Egypt. He says that Egypt has economic problems, as noted by Dr Hijazi, the lawyer from the traders' union, but that these have their priorities. As-Sadat notes that only officials are paying taxes and that others pay either nominal or no taxes at all.

As-Sadat then says that when the Egyptian-Israeli treaty was being discussed in the People's Assembly, there were some narrow-minded politicians who said that the treaty would mean that the poor, powerless Palestinian would not be able to get a drop of water in Egypt. He refutes this point, noting that there are 12,000 Palestinian students receiving free educational aid in Egyptian universities and more than 52 Palestinian millionaires in Egypt.

As-Sadat then discusses the possibility of a new Egyptian peace initiative with the Arab states, noting:

"I just received a question from Salah as-Sayyid, the official in charge of Arab affairs at the lawyers' association council, saying: Can we hope for a brave Egyptian initiative to restore Arab relations--even if within the framework of the unity of rank--following the changes that took place in the international and Arab arenas, particularly because there are signs that the Arab position has started turning toward the peace you have achieved?"

"As I told you, nothing in life upsets us any longer. We must not permit the past method of settling matters behind closed doors to continue. No. Everything concerning the people must be done before the people, and everyone must express his opinion. You and your groups and the people everywhere must express their opinion. What is requested is that Egypt should embark on a brave initiative to restore the relations.

"Speaking for myself, I say yes, I am prepared to do more than an initiative tomorrow. We mobilized ourselves, our people and the Arab nation against Israel for 30 years. Despite this, it was possible for me to carry out my initiative and jump over all this in one blow to accomplish the impossible and dazzle the entire world. An Arab initiative would be much simpler and easier. But did we ourselves sever relations with them? I severed relations with the five rejectionist states after Camp David, because they came out and cursed Egypt. As far as I am concerned, I forgive them for abusing me. I say, and you and my people hear me, that I forgive them for all they said against me. A politician must take this into account. I forgive them for their insults and for anything they said against me, but I will never forgive their abuse of Egypt. I severed relations with the five rejectionist states, because they cursed Egypt and the Egyptian people. Today I'll tell you that an initiative on my part wouldn't be as difficult or wouldn't tax me as much as the initiative I carried out in Israel by which we transcended 31 or 30 years of problems.

As-Sadat then discusses the results of the plebiscite in Egypt in which 41 million Egyptians said yes and only 5,000 said no. Turning again to the proposed initiative, As-Sadat says he is prepared to embark upon this initiative. "But how can I carry it out with Syria, for example? You have heard me say that it is time that the past method of our Arab relations be changed."

"The line adopted in Baghdad was to strike at the Egyptian people, to starve and isolate them. By whom? By those who can do nothing without Egypt. What can they do together, and can Egypt do alone? The latest thing they agreed upon--and they still cannot do it, because they began to contralict each other--They called for amending Resolution 242 or for issuing a new resolution confirming the rights of the Palestinians. Well, you have a Camp David establishing these rights. How could you achieve this at the Security Council? Agree among yourselves first. It is clear they have not agreed. They said Kuwait submitted this proposal. After officially announcing it submitted the proposal, Kuwait radio denied this yesterday, saying that we did not submit a proposal to amend Resolution 242. This is a hopeless process. The maximum they thought of was to amend Resolution 242."

After discussing the recent moves to amend Security Council Resolution 242, As-Sadat then discussed the provisions of the Camp David agreement, asking if a new amendment would be able to get the things that have been achieved through Camp David.

He then goes into the history of the peace initiative, as well as the story of the Camp David meetings, noting that the severance of relations that followed the Camp David agreement was an attempt to starve the Egyptian people. He notes that the Arab arms organization was liquidated in a phone call, that Egypt has liquidated nothing and that the arms organization is continuing as an Egyptian organization.

Turning back to the question of an initiative, As-Sadat asks with whom should he make such an initiative. He condemns Saudi Arabia, which he says bribed some people and persuaded others to sever relations with Egypt, as well as Syria, Iraq, Algeria and the Palestinians for their actions prior to and during the October War. He then asks how he could have an initiative with Al-Qadhdhafi, a man who has reached the extent of wanting to change the Koran. He says that King Husayn, according to Rabin's memoires, asked Israel to strike at the Syrian forces in favor of his own forces during the civil war in Jordan.

As-Sadat then says that Egypt has freedom and that the other Arab states are police states. He says that there may be some people in Egypt who are not pleased with him and who attack him, but this doesn't prevent the holding of these meetings as an Egyptian family. Returning once again to the proposal for a new initiative, As-Sadat says:

"I am not backward and I say before you that I am prepared to embark on one or even two initiatives more magnificent that my initiative with Israel, because I would not face the same difficulty I encountered before I carried out the initiative with Israel. Despite the fact that they are our brothers, I am prepared for this initiative on the condition that we sit together in an open session with the microphones open so that the Arab nation may hear everything. Let everyone speak and say what he holds against his brother, and let us then make a clean start. If Egypt is in the wrong, I will go. I will go if Egypt is in the wrong. If any one of them is in the wrong, then let him and the others know this.

"They will continue to be bogged down with the amendment of Resolution 242 this year, God willing. Al-'Arish has been restored and my petroleum will be restored. Three-quarters of Sinai will be restored, God willing. Autonomy will be achieved and Jerusalem will be regained, God willing. We will never stop, God willing."

Concluding, As-Sadat says that Egypt must deal with food and housing problems and that we want to build Egypt on faith and science. He stresses that this applies not just to Cairo, but to every governor.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO SEND LETTERS TO NONALINED LEADERS

NC120755 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0723 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 August--AL-AHRAM reports today that President Anwar as-Sadat will send letters to the heads of the nonalined states in the next few days explaining Egypt's position on the question of peace in the Middle East and the steps that Egypt has already taken to achieve a comprehensive and just peace for all states in the area.

The paper adds that the letters will be conveyed through Egypt's ambassadors to the nonalined states.

MINISTER OF STATE GHALI HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC101520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 August--The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, announced that the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel will take place next February; that is, 1 month after Israel's withdrawal to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line in accordance to the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement.

Dr Ghali added that Egypt intends to send its ambassador to Israel next February and that Egypt is now looking for premises for its embassy in Tel Aviv.

During a press conference he held today, Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that Egypt's principles aim at achieving full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as one stage so that the Palestinians will be able to determine their own fate in the manner they want. Dr Ghali added that Egypt is helping the Palestinian people devise a framework for full autonomy as a first step for supporting the Palestinians in determining their fate.

Dr Butrus Ghali announced that Egypt, Israel and the United States have agreed to participate in the tripartite meeting, which the United States has asked to convene in Washington. He said this meeting will be held next September.

Dr Ghali added that Egypt's representatives in this meeting have not yet been appointed and that this matter will be determined on the basis of what will be discussed at this meeting.

Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that, despite all the Arab differences, Egypt will prevail in its attitude for close cooperation with its Arab brothers in various spheres. Dr Ghali also affirmed that Egypt's basic policy toward the African countries calls for supporting the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia against the fascist and racist governments that dominate them.

To a question on the contacts between Dr Butrus Ghali and the mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, during Dr Butrus Ghali's visit in Haifa for the autonomy talks, Dr Ghali noted that a telephone conversation took place between him and Mr Rashad ash-Shawwa concerning the problems of the Palestinian students in Gaza.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that Mr Rashad ash-Shawwa had outlined three problems facing the Palestinian students in Gaza and that he had requested Egypt's assistance for them. Dr Ghali added that the first problem is related to the high school students' examination papers and that Mr ash-Shawwa had requested that these papers be transferred to Egypt for correction, even if the transfer is not effected through UNESCO channels. Mayor ash-Shawwa requested that this procedure be taken to safeguard the future of the 700 or 800 Palestinian students in Gaza.

The second problem is related to the Palestinian students from Gaza who are currently in Cairo and who want to spend their holidays in Gaza. Dr Butrus Ghali said the mayor of Gaza had informed him that he wants this procedure to be effected through the International Red Cross, considering that this territory is still an occupied territory and that the normalization of the Egyptian-Israeli relations does not mean that the normalization should apply to the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

Dr Ghali said: We are still holding contacts with Israel, asking that the procedure of returning the Palestinian students to Gaza for their holidays be conducted through the Red Cross--with the exception of a small number of sick students who will travel directly to Gaza in accordance with an agreement with the Palestinians in Gaza.

Dr Ghali added: Egypt does not act counter to the Palestinians' wishes.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that his conversation with Rashad ash-Shawwa dealt with a third problem related to the Palestinian bank in Gaza. Dr Ghali said that this matter should be discussed by the finance minister.

Dr Ghali emphasized that his conversation with Rashad ash-Shawwa was confined to these three problems and that absolutely no other problem related to autonomy was discussed.

Asked about Palestinian participation in the autonomy negotiations, Dr Ghali explained that in accordance with the Camp David agreement, Palestinian participation in the negotiations means the participation of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip He said that the Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip have refused to participate unless the other Arab sides approve. We still hope that they will participate.

Asked about the current attempts at the Security Council to amend Resolution 242 and whether these attempts clash with Egypt's efforts at the autonomy negotiations, Dr Ghali said that there is no contradiction between the attempts to amend Resolution 242 and the negotiations on full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that both these moves help each other.

The minister of state for foreign affairs explained in this respect that no amendment can be made to Resolution 242, because Security Council resolutions cannot be amended, but that a new resolution can be made. He said that Egypt is for any resolution that will encourage the Palestinians to participate in the peace process and the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

Asked if Egypt considers the PLO party to the negotiations, Dr Ghali said that this participation should be through the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, at least for the present phase of the negotiations.

Concerning the forthcoming nonalined summit in Havana, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that Egypt will attend those meetings since it is a founding state of the nonalined movement.

Dr Ghali added that Egypt's policy is based on the principle of safeguarding the nonalined movement and on (?preventing) attempts to polarize or weaken the principles of nonalinement.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt has prepared a long aide memoire concerning the draft of the Havana statement, and that Egypt has sent this aide memoire to the nonalined countries and to the Cuban Government, which is hosting the forthcoming nonalined conference.

Dr Ghali went on to say that the Egyptian aide memoire outlines its viewpoints on the statement adopted by the Cuban Government--a statement which puts forth a new theory and an ideology at variance with the principles of nonalinement.

In this respect, Dr Ghali said that the nonalined philosophy is based on achieving peace among the various systems, on achieving the legitimate rights and self-determination for the people and on establishing cooperation among the nonalined countries.

Dr Butrus Ghali disclosed that the draft of the Havana statement, which has been prepared by Cuba, includes principles that are at odds with the nonalined principles and is an attempt to create a stand against one of the big powers without mentioning the other.

During his press conference, Dr Butrus Ghali refused to comment on the current differences among the rejectionist countries. He limited himself to saying that the differences between Morocco and Algeria were apparent at the Monrovia conference and that there are now differences between Iraq and Syria.

Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt is not at all happy about these differences; on the contrary, Egypt is striving to consolidate solidarity among all the Arab countries.

Dr Butrus Ghali also affirmed Egypt's willingness to play a principal role in resolving Arab differences for the sake of bolstering the Arab countries' solidarity and for finding a peaceful solution to all of these differences. Dr Ghali expressed hope that Arab solidarity will eventually be restored and that the attitude of the rejectionists will be a mere phase in Arab history.

Asked about the Baghdad summit resolutions freezing Egypt's membership in the nonalined states group, Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that the Baghdad resolutions are illegal and that there is nothing like this in the principles of the nonalined movement that can be applied to any member in the movement.

He said that there is nothing in Egypt's policy that contradicts the principles of nonalinement. Therefore, he said, I do not think that the nonalined states can contemplate taking a stand contrary to the principles of the movement.

Asked about the issue of UN forces in Sinai, Dr Ghali referred to the meeting to be held in Washington in September to discuss this issue. He explained that Egypt will decide on who will represent it at this meeting in the light of the nature of the meeting. If the discussions are of a military nature, the Egyptian defense minister will attend the meeting. If the discussions are not to be purely military and will pertain to political issues related to the treaty, a Foreign Ministry delegation may then represent Egypt.

In reply to a question about the visit of Israelis to Egypt, Dr Butrus Ghali said: We welcome everyone, (?now that) we have agreed to open the borders. We want this to take place step by step. (?He) explained that this operation takes place according to an organized procedure requiring that Israelis wishing to visit Egypt must contact the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who in turn sends the applications to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Afterward, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will send its reply concerning the application.

In this connection, he noted that the real issue regarding the question of Israelis visiting Egypt lies in the lack of accommodation in Egyptian hotels, which is causing problems for travel agents.

Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt respects the peace agreement we have signed, and Egypt is eager to implement it. He said: The important thing is not normalizing relations, but the nature of this normalization, as no real normalization can emerge in the absence of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East area.

He added: If we want a real normalization, then there must be a solution to the principal issue in the area--the Palestinian issue. Certainly, there will be a major obstacle in the way of a comprehensive peace if it is not solved.

On (?the question) of building Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Dr Butrus Ghali expressed the hope that through the negotiations in the coming period the building of these settlements will stop.

He was asked whether President Anwar as-Sadat will attend the nonalined summit conference in Havana, and answered that such a question should be put to President as-Sadat.

And in answer to a question about the visit of the U.S. military delegation to Egypt, Dr Ghali said (?that) the delegation will hold military talks with the minister of defense with whom such talks are held.

He declared in answer to another question that the two subcommittees that emerged from the autonomy talks will meet (?in the course) of the next 2 weeks.

GHALI CALLS FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST PEACE

LD112218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Paris, 11 August--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed that the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East would be impossible without the solution of the Palestine problem and that "Egypt is fully convinced that there can be no peace in the Middle East without the USSR participation."

In an interview with the French magazine NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, to be published in Paris the day after tomorrow, Dr Ghali said that Egypt and Israel are agreed on the need to work for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He added that "if the autonomous rule failed to persuade the Palestinians to enter into the negotiations, then a new peace strategy should be considered."

Asked whether Egypt's declaration of support for the idea to amend Resolution 242 or issue a new resolution providing for the national rights of the Palestinians was part of the new strategy, Dr Butrus Ghali said that Egypt is preparing itself as of now for the likelihood that the talks on the autonomous rule will come to a dead end. Egypt has decided to proceed on two parallel roads: To continue the autonomous rule talks and at the same time a new initiative in the international field.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that President Anwar as-Sadat's proposal at the African summit conference for holding an international conference at Al-'Arish to deal with the question of peace in the Middle East was another initiative for the establishment of peace in the area.

Dr Ghali denied that Al-'Arish instead of Geneva was chosen as a venue for the conference, because of fear that the USSR would reappear in the Middle East formula. He said that "President as-Sadat's choice of Al-'Arish had a symbolic significance to the Arab world and to peace. Al-'Arish is the first Arab town to be liberated since the occupation of Arab territories in 1967."

He pointed out that on the eve of the Cairo preparatory conference for peace, he himself met with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo personally for over an hour to convince him of the need for Soviet participation in that conference, because Egypt was convinced and always will be convinced that there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East without Soviet participation. He added, "Egyptian diplomacy is not a rigid [jamidah] diplomacy." Egypt," he said, "welcomes Soviet participation in the peace operations alongside the United States."

He said, "If we choose to implement the new policy strategy and go to the UN Security Council where the USSR enjoys the right of veto we will do so relying on the good intentions of the USSR."

Dr Butrus Ghali also spoke of the main diplomatic objective Egypt will be seeking in the coming weeks and months and said: We have two objectives: The first is to convince the rejectionist states that Egypt has not abandoned its Arab commitments and will continue to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Arab world and particularly toward the Palestinian people. The second, he added, is to convince the Israelis that the exercise of the right of self-determination by the Palestinians and the establishment of their Palestinian state ultimately do not pose a threat to Israeli security.

Asked about the Palestinian claims that President as-Sadat has lately stopped talking of an independent Palestinian state, Dr Ghali said that since President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and until this day we have never concealed that our aim is to permit the Palestinians to attain their right of self-determination and decide on their future state. He said that the Palestinians have the freedom to decide on their future state. Egypt's aim, he added, was to help him obtain the conditions that would permit them to exercise the right to self-determination. He pointed out that demanding the right of self-determination for the Palestinians without specification of their future state was intended to avoid imposing any solution on the Palestinians and at the same time ease the shock to Israeli public opinion, which is extremely frightened over this Palestinian state.

Dr Ghali expressed his hope that the new UN Security Council resolution, "which affirms the legitimate rights of the Palestinians", will be acceptable to Israel and will persuade the PLO to ease its hostility toward the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

SIXTH ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS SET FOR 9-11 SEP

NC121620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 August--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met today with Egyptian aides, advisers and experts on the autonomy talks related to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

During the meeting they reviewed the results of the fifth round of negotiations recently held in Haifa.

Preparations were also made for the meetings of the two technical committees stemming from the autonomy negotiations, which will deal with the elections and the powers of the Palestinian authority. These technical committees will meet from 19 to 21 August in order to debate details of the autonomy powers and the elections. In particular they will debate the points agreed upon in the fifth round of negotiations concerning the method of elections, prerequisites for voters and candidates, secrecy of the elections and election publicity.

MENA has learned that the sixth round of autonomy talks will be held in Alexandria from 9 to 11 September.

FIRST SESSION OF MILITARY DISCUSSIONS OPENS IN CAIRO

NC111040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 August--The first session of the military discussions between Egypt and the United States was held at Defense Ministry headquarters this morning to discuss the U. S. contribution to the development of Egypt's arms industry and details of its arms deal with Egypt.

The Egyptian delegation was headed by the armed forces chief of staff, Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi, and the U. S. delegation by David McGiffert, assistant secretary of defense for international secruity affairs and foreign relations, who arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 3-day visit.

The armed forces chief of staff held a separate meeting with the U. S. assistant secretary of defense at 0930 today. After the 20-minute meeting, the two men left to head an expanded meeting of the Egyptian and U. S. delegations, which include a number of Egyptian and U. S. military experts and technicians. The U. S. assistant secretary of defense then flew to Alexandria 30 minutes later to meet with Defense and War Production Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who will accompany him when he meets with President Anwar as-Sadat.

Further on Military Cooperation

NC121641 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 August--The Egyptian and U. S. sides continued their military talks today at the Defense Ministry. They discussed subjects pertaining to military cooperation between the two countries.

A responsible source at the Defense Ministry stated at the conclusion of the 4 and 1/2-hour meeting this afternoon that the U. S. side fully understands Egypt's requirements for new weapons and equipment that can reinforce the combat capability of the Egyptian armed forces.

The source added that the two sides also discussed replacing some obsolete equipment with new equipment.

The Egyptian-U. S. committee is scheduled to resume its meetings tomorrow morning to continue discussing the subjects on the agenda.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS SUPPORT FOR UN PROPOSALS ON PALESTINIANS

LD120804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, 11 August--A responsible source has stated that Egypt is closely following all efforts being made at the United Nations concerning the Palestinian issue. The source also stated that Egypt will agree to any proposal if it is in the interests of the Palestinian people.

AL-AHRAM states in its Sunday issue that one of the proposals calls for a special session of the UN General Assembly to discuss the Palestinian issue. This move was confirmed by news agency reports from New York on Friday, which are attributed to informed diplomatic sources and which concern the possibility of a request by the Arab states to convene an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly to discuss the Palestinian issue if the United States vetoes a Security Council resolution to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to return to their homeland and to self-determination. UN diplomatic circles reportedly favor the holding of such an extraordinary session before the Security Council debates on the report of the UN committee on the rights of the Palestinian people are resumed on 23 August. The committee is also expected to join in calling for this session.

AL-JUMHURIYAH COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS

NC130731 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 13 Aug 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 13 August--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today comments on President Jimmy Carter's recent statements in which he asserted his determination to solve all aspects of the Palestinian problem and grant the Palestinians the right to participate in their self-determination. President Carter declared at the same time that he is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state. AL-JUMHURIYAH says: President Carter knows very well that the right to self-determination he is demanding for the Palestinians could lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. However, it appears that in deference to Israeli fears, the U.S. officials' statements at times contradict their convictions and basic principles.

The paper notes that the U.S. President's support of the Palestinian rights at the Camp David talks was a major factor in driving the peace efforts forward, inasmuch as this support was met with appreciation and welcomed by Arab and international circles. It was met with a great deal of anxiety in Israel.

AL-JUMHURIYAH outlines that Israeli fears and complexes should not predominate U.S. policy and the future of peace in the Middle East, because this might hinder and put obstacles in the way of peace.

SIERRA LEONE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC130656 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Aug 79 NC

[Text] The foreign minister of Sierra Leone arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 3-day visit to Egypt. He will hold talks on current African issues and relations between Egypt and Sierra Leone.

DECREE ISSUED APPOINTING TWO MINISTERS

JN121100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 August--A republican decree was issued here today appointing 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Majid minister of education and Jasim Muhammad Khalaf minister of higher education and scientific research. The decree has relieved Dr 'Isam 'Abd 'Ali of the post of minister of higher education and scientific research.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN ADDRESS JUDICIARY SEMINAR

JN121507 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 August--President Saddam Husayn has called on judges to uphold justice and safeguard the essence of humanism. At an expanded seminar for the judiciary last night organized by the Justice Ministry, President Saddam Husayn confirmed the serious determination of the party and revolution leadership to support the judiciary and provide them with all requisites which will enable them to maintain a suitable psychological frame of mind and the kind of working conditions necessary to uphold justice and act justly. At the seminar, President Saddam Husayn spoke about the importance of strengthening the role of the judiciary and the law, which is the basic yardstick that regulates our life in society.

President Saddam Husayn stressed the importance of studying the Arab nation's history, particularly the history of the Arabs and Islam during the Renaissance period and during those periods that witnessed the actual application of justice. He also stressed the importance of understanding the theoretical premises of the Ba'th Party.

The President said that the judge's task is to apply the law, uphold justice and protect the essence of humanism. He affirmed that this cannot be done without an understanding of the nation's history and the Ba'th Party's tenets. In his speech, President Saddam Husayn spoke about the three divine religions. Recalling what the Ba'th Party has always affirmed since its inception, President Saddam Husayn said: The party has also affirmed while in power that "We do not stand neutral between faith and atheism. We support faith as we always have and will always do so."

RCC FORMS FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JN121941 Baghdad INA in English 1830 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, (INA)--AL-JUMHURIYAH reported today that the RCC decided to establish a "Committee for Foreign Economic Relations", attached to the Council of Ministers. The committee is to be chaired by the first deputy premier or a deputy premier and is to consist of a number of high economic, financial, industrial, planning and diplomatic officials. Its duties will be the drawing up of the foreign economic policy, economic integration on local and pan-Arab levels, the laying down of agreement on economic and technical cooperation with Arab and foreign countries, and so forth.

INFORMATION MINISTER DISCUSSES INTERNAL SITUATION

JN111024 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 11 August--Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has denied reports and rumors that Iraq is concentrating on the domestic situation more than on the pan-Arab [Qawmi] situation in response to the recent attempt to overthrow the regime. In statements published by AL-QABAS and AL-WATAN today, the information minister said Iraq will continue to uphold its declared Arab position and that recent events would not affect its pan-Arab commitments. He called on the Arab and foreign press to be accurate in their reporting on Iraq and to convey what is taking place there accurately and sincerely. He said: The doors of the Iraqi officials are wide open for every journalist who seeks the truth, and we are quite prepared to supply him with information.

The Iraqi minister explained that his country is not concerned with what is taking place in Iran because this is a purely domestic affair. However, he asserted that Iraq believes that the Arab minority in Iran should be treated the same way the other minorities are being treated.

Dealing with the Palestinian cause, Jasim said: This is our central issue and Iraq supports the Palestinian rights with all strength and capabilities. He reiterated his country's rejection of UN Securtiy Council Resolution 242.

RCC ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT SALARY HIKES

JN111700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 August--The RCC today issued decrees raising the citizens' purchasing power. These decrees provide for increasing the cost of living appropriations for those officials in the state's departments and in the socialist sector institutions who are covered by the civil service law by 17,500 dinars a month.

The decrees also provide for increasing the cost of living appropriations for those officials of the state and of the socialist sector institutions who are covered by the laws, rules, regulations or instructions of a private service by 10 dinars a month.

The RCC also decided to increase the full salary of military men who are covered by the military service and retirement law by 10 dinars a month. The same increase applies to the internal security forces, intelligence men and workers in the state departments and socialist sector institutions.

The decrees provided for modifying the highest and lowest ceiling of the workers' wage scale and for giving retired civil servants an addition to their salaries as well as cost of living allocations by 7,500 dinars monthly.

One of the decrees provides for raising the top salaries of jobs that are below 90 dinars a month to 90 dinars; the salaries of 125 to 150 dinars a month, those of 150 dinars a month to 170 dinars; and those of 180 dinars to 200 dinars a month. All these decrees will come into effect as of the first of this month.

PALESTINIAN, BA'TH PARTY DELEGATIONS MEET IN BAGHDAD

JN031148 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 August--A Palestine Liberation Front delegation led by Abu al-'Abbas, deputy secretary general of the front, and an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation under Na'im Haddad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and official in charge of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau, have discussed the situation in the Arab area, particularly the Palestine issue, and the requirements for confronting the designs of imperialism and Zionism and their agents in the area. During a meeting here today, Haddad affirmed the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's determination to continue the struggle in a manner that guarantees the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people and their revolutionary factions and mobilizes the entire nation's resources so that it may proceed on the path of liberating the usurped lands and regaining the inviolable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It will be recalled that the Palestine Liberation Front delegation arrived here last night.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

JN121958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 August--Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and official in charge of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau, received the Palestinian Liberation Front delegation headed by Abu Al-'Abbas, assistant secretary general and military commander of the front, here today. During the meeting, a discussion was held on developments in the Palestinian issue and on ways of confronting hostile machinations aimed at imposing capitulatory solutions. A review was conducted of bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them, proceeding from the Ba'th Party's principled course in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and armed revolution.

NONALINED COORDINATION BUREAU EXPERTS MEET IN BAGHDAD

JN111412 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 August--The meetings of the group of experts of the nonalined governmental Coordination Bureau began here today. During their 3-day meetings, the experts will discuss the details of the Iraqi proposal to establish a joint world fund to compensate the developing countries for the repercussions of the inflation exported to them by the industrial countries. The proposal for the fund, which was submitted at the conference held in Baghdad last May on the role of women in development of the nonalined countries, includes contributions from the advanced industrial countries with their various political and economic regimes, and from the oil-exporting countries, with shares to equal the percentage of inflation exported to the developing countries every year. During the morning session, Dr Muhammad Sadiq al-Mahdi, director general of the Foreign Ministry Economic Department, was elected chairman of the session. The participants then reviewed and discussed the general ideas of the proposal. The Iraqi delegation has prepared a working paper that includes the details of the Iraqi proposal and the bases for establishing the fund and contributing to it. In addition to Iraq, the group consists of experts representing Cuba, Yugoslavia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India and Guyana.

TV REPORTS KING HUSAYN'S STATEMENT TO PARIS WEEKLY

JN111913 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stated that the United States is not qualified to settle the Palestinian issue and does not have the right to discuss the affairs of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Egypt also has no right to speak on their behalf.

In reply to a question about the actual relations between Jordan and the United States, His Majesty King Husayn said: Relations are normal, although they are somehwat cool as a result of the latest developments.

In an interview published in the Paris-based weekly AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI today, his majesty said he was astonished when the U.S. envoy said that Jordan would join the autonomy negotiations held among the United States, Egypt and Israel. His majesty said he did not know where the U.S. envoy got such information and that Jordan's position has been clear and constant since 1967. His majesty said: We cannot bargain over a single inch of the Palestinian soil or the Palestinian people's rights.

His majesty wondered whether Israel is ready to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and Jerusalem, and whether it is ready to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, enabling them to determine their own fate on their soil.

His majesty then spoke about Jordanian-Soviet relations. He stressed that Jordan needs arms to build its armed forces and confront danger. In this respect, Jordan seeks more than one arms source.

In reply to a question on Jordanian-Syrian relations, his majesty said that these relations will continue to be good, as are our relations with the other Arab brothers. The Baghdad summit conference was a new starting point for confronting the very grave circumstances facing the Arab nation.

On Jordanian-Iraqi relations, his majesty said that Iraq was among the first Arab countries to fulfill its commitments in supporting the Arabs. Iraq is our depth and hope and it is natural that we are concerned about its safety and stability.

Further Report

JN111220 Doha QNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 August--His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan has declared that there is nothing new in Jordanian-U.S. relations and that these relations have become somewhat cool due to recent developments.

In a statement published in the Paris-based weekly AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, King Husayn said that the U.S. envoy who visited Jordan recently--and this was the last contact between the two countries--told him that he did not bring anything and was not asking anything.

The Jordanian king said that he was thus astonished when the U.S. envoy said that Jordan would join the settlement negotiations in the next few months. The king said he did not know where the U.S. envoy got such information.

Asked about U.S. attempts to isolate the gulf area from the Arab east or separate the oil economy from the Arab-Israeli conflict, King Husayn said: We must open our eyes in all directions. I do not believe that our brothers in the gulf are less enthusiastic about or less committed to their pan-Arab [qawmi] role.

Asked if certain international quarters consider Jordan the main negotiator on behalf of the West Bank, the king said that the clock cannot be turned back and that Jordan is bound by the Rabat summit resolutions determining the role of the PLO.

King Husayn expressed the belief that the United States will not turn back after all the promises it has made to continue with the present solution in the area. The king wondered whether the United States has the means to put pressure on Israel. He said that the United States is not qualified to solve this issue and does not have the right to discuss the affairs of the West Bank and Gaza. Egypt also has no right to speak on behalf of the West Bank and Gaza, he added.

The king concluded: The thing to do is to find a new formula by building Arab capability, return to the root of matters and discuss this question with the whole world--Europe, the Soviet Union and the United States.

EDITOR OF NEWSPAPER AR-RA'Y REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

NC120948 Paris AFP in English 0900 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, Aug 12 (AFP)--The editor of the Jordanian daily AR-RA'Y--Mahmud al-Kayid--as well as one of the paper's top journalists have been arrested, the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR said today in a despatch from Amman.

AR-RA'Y was "suspended" last week until further notice by the Jordanian authorities after publishing an extract from a book written by two Israelis which reported direct contacts between King Husayn and certain Israeli leaders.

SARKIS, AL-HUSS, BUTRUS DISCUSS CARTER'S MESSAGE

NC111434 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Aug 79 NC

[Excerpts] The developments in the situation in southern Lebanon in view of the Israeli military escalation the area has been experiencing for some time figured prominently in the discussions President Ilyas Sarkis had with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and foreign minister Fu'ad Butrus at noon today. The discussions also dealt with the contents of the U.S. President's reply to President Sarkis regarding the U.S. position on the deteriorating situation in the south and the Lebanese request that effective U.S. pressure be exerted on Israel to make it halt its daily attacks on the area.

Little information has been reported today on the contents of the U.S. message to President Sarkis. According to the reports, the message concentrated on important points that are of great interest to Lebanon, particularly during the present delicate circumstances Lebanon is experiencing.

These points center on the following: Absolute support for the policy President Ilyas Sarkis is adopting in dealing with the Lebanese crisis and his endeavors to end it; support for President Sarkis' steps inside and outside the country on all levels to remedy the situation in the south; the assertion that the United States will not permit Israel to invade the south, whatever the pretext, because that would obstruct the process of establishing peace in the area. The Israeli military escalation in the south should be dealt with at other levels by exerting efforts with the sides concerned with controlling the situation in the south and by bringing maximum pressure to bear on Israel to halt its military operations in the area.

The U.S. message also contained absolute support for the task of the UN forces operating in the South and expressed its readiness to bolster these forces so as to enable them to continue their task of implementing the UN resolutions and to prevent the emergence of any reasons conducive to the withdrawal of these forces because this would trigger an explosion in the area.

Furthermore, the U.S. message reaffirmed U.S. support for the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and its territorial integrity; reaffirmed that the area's problems cannot be solved at Lebanon's expense; and reaffirmed the U.S. support for the legitimacy, the army and every solution the Lebanese may reach to solve the crises.

Further Report

NC120752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] The president of the republic yesterday held his first working meeting with the prime minister since the new government won its vote of confidence. Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus attended the meeting, which was later joined by Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khatib.

The conferees discussed the general situation in the country and possible moves to achieve more political and security detente. The meeting also discussed the question of the ministerial post that became vacant as a result of the resignation of Minister of State Charles Hilu.

President Sarkis briefed Prime Minister al-Huss and Minister Butrus on the contents of the message he received from U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The prime minister briefed the president and the foreign minister on the outcome of his contacts to freeze the situation in the south.

After returning to his house, Minister Butrus spoke to reporters about the palace meeting, saying that they reviewed several issues connected with the nature of the government's work after it won the vote of confidence, discussed the current diplomatic moves regarding the situation in Lebanon and the area, and further discussed what Lebanese diplomacy should do at this stage.

Asked if President Sarkis intends to respond to President Carter's invitation to visit Washington at the end of this summer, Butrus said this was not so.

Asked if the president would go to the United Nations to raise the Lebanese question if current efforts fail, the minister said that there was no such plan so far.

Asked if there were new diplomatic contacts and what results could be expected, and what was the reason for the Western interest in the situation, Fu'ad Butrus said: Contacts have been going on for some time and have never ceased. They revolve around the same old issues. The new Western interest is because the situation in the area has become very delicate and requires the attention of the world community.

UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC1019 40 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Aug 79 NC

[Text] The UNIFIL in the south will not remain acquiescent in the current situation, General Manuel Erskine announced at a press conference he held at the Norwegian contingent's headquarters today.

General Erskine said that UNIFIL is determined to settle matters and restore Lebanese authority over the entire territory in the south. This is the basic task for which UNIFIL came to Lebanon in accordance with the Security Council resolution. He said UNIFIL will advance to the official border of Lebanon at the appropriate time and when the international atmosphere permits.

About the present action being taken by UNIFIL, General Erskine said UNIFIL is now trying to remove the barriers that have been set up by the border strip armed men but it has not succeeded in its efforts so far. Whatever happens, he said, UNIFIL will remain prepared and committed to protecting the inhabitants against any aggression. He explained that the militia forces have so far withdrawn from the (Kunnin) crossroads and the position they had set up in Jabal (Barsin) near (As-Salhani).

Replying to a question on the lines to which the border militias are adhering--the so-called Charlie Line--General Erskine said that part of the land occupied by the militias is useless and the UNIFIL will not allow this line to be made permanent because UNIFIL's task is to help the Lebanese authority to extend its authority over all the south up to the international border.

ISRAEL ATTEMPTS TO LAND TROOPS IN TYRE AREA 11 AUG

NC112020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Aug 79 NC

[Text] At about 2100 today the Israeli enemy tried to land troops in the area of RA's al-'Ayn-Al-M'alliyah in Tyre. Ground resistance confronted this operation, which was supported by war vessels and helicopters. So far no other reports have been received.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south reported earlier that at 2025 today the Israeli forces fired many flares over Ra's al-'Ayn and Al-M'alliyah, south of Tyre. Several Israeli warplanes also flew over the area.

The correspondent added that at 2130 today, an Israeli plane flew over Sidon from west to east.

Other reports say that Israeli warplanes flew conspicuously this evening over Tyre, Al-Bass, Ar-Rashidiyah and Burj ash-Shamali, The reports also say that the Israeli forces fired flares over these areas and several explosions were heard. The location of these explosions has not been identified.

BORDER STRIP MILITIAS OPEN FIRE ON VILLAGES

NC120825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] At 0100 today, seven vehicles belonging to the border strip's armed men near Rushayf village opened intensive machinegun and heavy weapons fire on the surroundings of Haris, Haddathah and "Ayta al-Zut villages, causing material damage. There have been no reports about any casualties.

It should be noted that these villages are within the area of operation of UNIFIL'S Dutch and Irish forces.

NORWEGIAN FORCES COME UNDER MILITIAS' ARTILLERY FIRE

NC120951 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] It has been reported from the south that the Norwegian forces were subjected to heavy artillery fire from the border strip this morning. The shelling, which lasted approximately 2-hours, was directed against the Norweigan positions in Ibil as-Saqi, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, Al-Khuraybah and Kafr Hamam. The shelling took place a few hours before a scheduled visit by the new Norweigan commander--who will assume the post in September--to Marj 'Uyun to meet with Sa'd Haddad.

TALAS DECLARES ALL-OUT BATTLE AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

JN111103 Doha QNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 11 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 11 August--Syrian Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas has reiterated that his country's pan-Arab stand is solid and will never be shaken by any factors or pressures. He added: Today we are confronting our nation's enemies who are lying in wait and are preparing to achieve their schemes against our people.

In a statement to the Kuwait AL-QABAS, General Talas said that the Syrian leadership is working to entrench the scientific structure of the Syrian Armed Forces so that they can absorb modern military technology.

Alluding to the artillery school incident in Aleppo, General Talas asserted that the incident's principal goal was to splinter the domestic front and to weaken the armed forces' self-confidence. He said that the Muslim Brothers have been perpetrating acts of violence and assassination in Syria since 1975. We have declared an all-out battle against them until they are completely uprooted from Syria forever.

TISHRIN ATTACKS AS-SADAT'S CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT

JN130622 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 13 Aug 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "From Confrontation to Solidarity," TISHRIN gives the following commentary: It is evident that the sides involved in the Camp David process have recently been confused and perplexed. It is also evident that the reason for this confusion and perplexity is that the sides involved in the Camp David process have reached a deadlock. As-Sadat has failed to acquire the Marshal-like Carter plan and has also failed to obtain the billions from Washington, Bonn and Tokyo which he gambled on and promised to our people in Egypt. Israel has also failed to achieve the peace it thought it would achieve by concluding peace with As-Sadat. Washington also is not reassured about its interests and the continued flow of the area's oil to its industries. The As-Sadat-Israeli peace treaty has also failed to advance one single step toward achieving its objectives. They are confused. A quick glance on what Washington and Carter said about dialog with the Palestinians and Palestinian rights clearly reveals the extent of fumbling in efforts to overcome the deadlock. A glance at the present predicament of the autonomy negotiations, to which they have failed to attract any Palestinian, reveals the future of these negotiations.

TISHRIN adds: What As-Sadat said yesterday in his meeting with the trade union representatives is another indication of the confusion in the ranks of our nation's enemies. Although what As-Sadat said was silly and meaningless, it could serve as a topic for discussion. As-Sadat, who a few days earlier declared the beginning of the confrontation phase with the Arabs, who committed the biggest crime against the Arabs by concluding a separate peace with the Arabs' occupying enemy, and who is exercising the dirtiest operation of falsification of the will of the Arab people of Egypt, stood yesterday with all his impudence and cheapness calling for the convening of an Arab summit to restore Arab solidarity.

Realizing that none of the Arabs will accept his new initiative, As-Sadat directed new dirty fabrications and lies against all the Arabs. He called Syria, which he had described in many speeches as the noblest partner and the most honorable comrade-in-arms during the October war, traitorous and colluding.

TISHRIN concludes: With such a situation, why is As-Sadat making a new initiative to restore Arab solidarity? With whom does As-Sadat want to have solidarity and against whom? For what goal will As-Sadat employ this solidarity? What confusion and perplexity! They are confused because their plot has collided with the rock of Arab rejection and the wall of Arab steadfastness. Inasmuch as they are confused and perplexed, our call for unifying the ranks, consolidating the rock and strengthening the wall becomes more urgent, and the need for an integrated Arab plan of action becomes more urgent. The statement issued yesterday by the PLO Central Council has a lot to say to our nation in terms of its expectations for the good of the cause. It is also a new impetus for further unified action which the confusion of our enemies proves is the best and sharpest weapon.

VOL: FIERCE FIGHTING IN ALEPPO OVER HUSNI 'ABU'S ARREST

NC101333 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 10 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Our correspondent reports that fierce fighting broke out in Aleppo between units of the Syrian Army and armed elements of the Muslim Brotherhood when army units carried out a raid to arrest Husni 'Abu, religious affairs secretary of the Muslim Brotherhood, and his deputy Zuhayr Zaqlutah. The fighting involved machineguns and heavy arms and resulted in the destruction of some houses and in several casualties to both sides.

VOL REPORTS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD RAID ON DAMASCUS PRISON

NC101340 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 10 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Our correspondent reports that armed members of the Muslim Brotherhood attacked Shaykh Hasan prison in Damascus in an attempt to break into the cells and release all the prisoners. An armed clash ensued between the army and the attackers.

Meanwhile, some religious men who fled from Iraq following the recent attempted coup are reportedly residing near Sayyidah Zaynab, about 20 km from the Syrian capital.

MENA REPORTS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESIDENT, BROTHER

NC111650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 11 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Damascus, 11 Aug--Rif'at al-Asad, the brother of the Syrian president, has gone to the town of Latakia after having remained in seclusion in his house in Damascus for a period of time. His behavior is interpreted by Syrians as stemming from a fear of assassination.

Those knowledgeable in Syrian affairs say that Rif'at al-Asad is at odds with his brother and with members of the 'Alawite Ba'th leadership concerning ways to deal with acts of assassination and sabotage in Syria. Rif'at al-Asad regards force and oppression as a potent way to deal with the Muslim Brotherhood and those who oppose the government, while the others regard moderation as the better method. Those who advocate moderation believe this policy is necessary to cool rebellious feelings against the 'Alawite Ba'th, particularly since the state of security in Syria is still disturbed despite the changes made among the ranks of security personnel after they failed to end the wave of sabotage and assassinations.

In a bid to restore security to Syria, Syrian Interior Minister Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh announced the arrest of the leader and members of sabotage groups in Aleppo and other Syrian cities. However, this attempt failed. The sabotage groups retaliated by assassinating Dr Muhammad Shahawah, a famous neurologist, who belongs to the 'Alawite community. Four other citizens were also killed during the attack on him.

This incident forced Syrian security personnel to seek the assistance of several smugglers and criminals to help the authorities uncover the movements of these sabotage organizations.

Observers of Syrian affairs note that the continuation of these disturbances in Syria will lead to a general explosion in Syria.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID RECEIVES FATAH'S ABU IYAD

JN130639 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
0530 GMT 13 Aug 79 JN

[Text] The Algerian news agency reports that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday received brother Abu Iyad, Central Committee member of the Fatah movement.

Brother Abu Iyad said after the meeting that they discussed latest developments involving the Palestine issue and imperialist plots and designs concocted against the Palestinian revolution, particularly in southern Lebanon. Brother Abu Iyad added that for the last 4 months, the area has been the target of Zionist naval, air and ground attacks against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Furthermore, As-Sadat is seeking to impose the autonomy plot in disregard of the national interests of the Palestinian people and the liberation will of the Arab nation.

Concluding his statement, brother Abu Iyad said that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid reaffirmed his country's constant stand toward the Palestine issue. He also condemned Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

BENDJEDID RECEIVES LIBYAN MINISTER, MALIAN PRESIDENT

LD112014 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The head of state received today Abd As-Salam at-Turayki, secretary for foreign affairs of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, who handed him a message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

President Chadli Bendjedid also had a meeting last night with President of Mali Moussa Traore, who was on his way home from Paris where he met President Valery Giscard d'Estaing with whom he discussed the problems of the region.

MOROCCAN ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN TIRIS NOTED

LD112222 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Excerpt] As observers expected, the regime in Rabat has resumed its threats to occupy Western Tiris. It went further: Rabat radio has announced that the town of Dakhlah is now under Moroccan administration.

Thus, the regime in Rabat has increased tension in the area and ignored the wishes of the people of the region, which are embodied in the peace treaty between the POLISARIO Front and Mauritania. The regime in Rabat has also defied the resolutions of the OAU, which supports the right of the Saharan people to determine their right to freedom and independence.

LIBYA

U.S. MANEUVERS NEAR TERRITORIAL WATERS OBSERVED

LD110240 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The U.S. 6th Fleet on 8 and 9 August carried out military maneuvers in the area north of 32.5 degrees latitude in the Mediterranean, that is, opposite the territorial waters of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Previously, the U.S. 6th Fleet on 27, 28, 29 and 30 July carried out similar maneuvers in the same area north of latitude 32.5 degrees in the Mediterranean, that is, at the edge of Libyan Arab territorial waters.

Warning Issued

LD121632 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli--A source at the Foreign Secretariat has said that the American charge d'affairs in the Jamahiriyah has been summoned and invited to give clarifications on whether there is any substance in the reports carried by the paper NEW NORFOLK, published in the U.S. state of Virginia, and the New York TIMES on 10 August 1979. Quoting American sources, the papers said that the United States would challenge, by force, those states whose territorial waters extend over more than 3 miles.

The same source at the Foreign Secretariat said that the American charge d'affaires was told that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah would defend its rights to its territorial waters fixed at 12 miles, and also its territorial waters at the Gulf of Sidra which it regards as an internal sea and an integral part of its territories under its sovereignty, in accordance with the proclamation issued in 1973 in this respect and conveyed at the time by the Jamahiriyah to all states and international organizations.

AFP REPORTS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN IMAM AS-SADR CASE

OW112247 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 11 Aug 79 OW

[Text] Paris, Aug 11 (AFP)--The mystery of the disappearance almost a year ago in Tripoli (Libya) of Lebanese Shi'ite Moslem leader Imam Musa as-Sadr deepened today with a claim that Italian legal authorities had established that, contrary to Libyan declarations, he had never gone on to Italy.

A Lebanese Shi'ite delegation visiting here accused Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhudhafi of keeping the imam prisoner along with his two companions, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub, another religious leader, and Abbas Badr ad-Din a Lebanese journalist.

A member of the delegation, professor of international law Husayn Kana'n, told AFP that the Italians "had announced their findings after an inquiry involving French legal authorities and the international criminal police organisation (INTERPOL)."

The imam, 52, vanished after leaving Beirut for Libya on Aug 25 last year. A statement by the Libyan Government on Sept 17 said he had left Libya on Aug 31 by plane for Italy, but this was denied by the Italian airline, Alitalia.

The Shi'ite delegation said Libya was holding the imam because of "conflicting political viewpoints on the war in Lebanon, in that the imam has announced he accepts Syrian mediation as a preliminary to a national Lebanese reconciliation," and "divergent religious viewpoints concerning Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's interpretations of Islamic law."

The delegation added that a conference due to be held on the As-Sadr affair here last Monday involving representatives from Iran, Syria, Algeria, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) did not take place "because the Libyans failed to turn up."

The efforts of the Iranian ambassador to persuade the Libyans to take part "met with a categoric refusal" the delegation said. It accused Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of "serious violation of human values and principles of Islam, which considers holy the intangible character of men of religion" and called on countries throughout the world and international organisations, as well as Arab and Islamic heads of state to "end" this situation.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA: MAURITANIA-POLISARIO DEAL NULL, VOID, WORTHLESS

LD101315 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation today reaffirmed that the agreement concluded in Algiers between Mauritania and the mercenaries was null and void and worthless. In a statement to the Paris paper LE MATIN, M'hamed Boucetta said that Morocco would use every means to defend its rights. He went on: We regard Tiris el Gharbia [in Mauritanian-held Sahara] no longer Mauritanian now that Mauritania has (?invalidated) the treaties and agreements concluded between us when it signed the agreement [word indistinct]. The minister stressed that Tiris el Gharbia was Moroccan territory legally and historically, as attested by the International Court of Justice.

Boucetta said: Up to now we have given enough proof of our fortitude and patience, but public opinion is beginning to show signs of restlessness. For this reason we shall use every means to defend our rights. We are prepared to render every sacrifice. Nevertheless, we do not refuse to negotiate with those who wield real responsibility--the Algerians--to save the future of the Arab Maghreb.

Speaking about the so-called POLISARIO, the minister said that it was no more than a veil created to cover aims which no one else recognized and which served only expansionism and the Algerian spirit of hegemony. For this reason the dispute is between Morocco and Algeria only and we will never agree to our country being subjected to continual aggression.

AOSARIO LETTER TO MAURITANIAN LEADERS DETAILED

ID101416 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Aug 10 (MAP)--The Association of the Natives of the Sahara formerly under Spanish rule (AOSARIO) addressed to the Mauritanian leaders the following open letter:

"By capitulating without conditions before the enemy of your country's territorial integrity, you are held responsible of a surrender of which you alone will assume the political, the historical and the institutional consequences. You will have to answer for these consequences before your people as well as the memory of the Mauritanian martyrs who died while defending their country's dignity and unity.

"Being natives of this region, we underline that history has never recorded the existence of a dictator or of a legitimate and responsible government who had given up or sold a part of its people, because the latter constituted a political problem or caused social difficulties for the central power.

"The unilateral decision adopted by the Mauritanian leaders does not have logical explanations, excuses, nor extenuating circumstances, in the so-called political challenge and economic (?oppressions) that Algeria and Libya exercise on Mauritania. On the contary this unilateral to and uncertain fate. [sentence as received] Indeed, to give up Tiris el Gharbia means to allow Algeria to massacre the courageous populations who had opposed Algeria and rejected its [word indistinct] over the area.

"In conclusion, the AOSARIO which regroups the native populations of Saguia el Hamra and of Rio de Oro (Tiris el Gharbia) warns the international opinion by affirming that it will assume its responsibilities and defend its brothers from the genocide which is threatening them in the coming days."

MAURITANIA PRIME MINISTER HEYDALLA ARRIVES

LD101310 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] This morning Mauritanian Prime Minister Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Heydalla arrived in Rabat at the head of an important delegation consisting of four ministers and a number of senior military officers and civilian officials. At the civil airport of Sale he was welcomed by Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Maata Bouabid, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta, the ambassador of Morocco to Mauritania and the Mauritanian ambassador to Morocco, the governor of Rabat Province and a number of public figures.

In a statement to the press the Mauritanian prime minister expressed his happiness at visiting Morocco, a country which has special traditional ties with Mauritania. He explained that the aim of the visit is to deliver to King Hassan II a message from the Mauritanian chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation. He observed that relations between Morocco and Mauritania are at present passing through a special phase, adding that this question will not be the only one he will discuss with the king, but that there are other aspects of Moroccan-Mauritanian cooperation to be dealt with.

The prime minister went on to refer to a previous statement by King Hassan that Morocco and Mauritania should coexist as neighbors. Asked about his view on Morocco's decision to withdraw its forces from Mauritania, he replied that those forces were sent to Mauritania at the latter's request after the outbreak of the Sahara war and that the order by the king to withdraw them was at the right time, knowing that Mauritania had concluded a peace treaty and no longer needed those forces. Thus Mauritania has no more to say on the matter.

The Mauritanian prime minister is accompanied by Foreign Minister Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Minister of Supply and Transport Maj Anne Amadou Babally, Minister of Mines Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Zamel, Minister of Education Husni Ould (Zidi), Maj [name indistinct] inspector of the National Guard, and the director of the Bank of Mauritania.

Meeting With King Hassan

LD102133 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God help him, this afternoon received in audience at the Rabat Royal Palace Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Olud Heydalla, Mauritanian prime minister, who was accompanied by his foreign minister, Mr Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, and Mr Dey Ould Brahim, Mauritanian ambassador to Morocco.

The audience was attended by the prime minister and justice minister, Mr Maata Bouabid; the state minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, M'hamed Boucetta; the minister of the royal household, protocol services and medals, Gen Moulay Hafidh Alaoui; the interior minister, Driss Basri; and the ambassador of his majesty the king to Nouakchott, Mr Ahmed Senoussi. After the audience, the other members of the Mauritanian delegation came and greeted his majesty the king.

This afternoon Prime Minister and Justice Minister Mr Maata Bouabid held talks with the Mauritanian Prime Minister Heydalla. The 30-minute audience was attended by Mr M'hamed Boucetta, state minister for foreign affairs and cooperation; the foreign minister of Mauritania, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, and his majesty's ambassador to Nouakchott and the Mauritanian ambassador to Rabat.

Departure Statement

LD111154 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, 11 Aug, MAP--Early this morning, Lt Col Mohammed Khouna Ould Heydalla, Mauritanian prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him, left Sale airport for Nouakchott after a short visit to Morocco. During the visit the Mauritanian prime minister was received by HM King Hassan II.

Before the delegation's departure the Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ahmedou Ould Abdallah made a statement in the name of Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Heydalla to the press. He said that the delegation was received by his majesty the king yesterday afternoon. The Mauritanian premier handed his majesty a message from Mauritanian President Lt Col Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly. In an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding his majesty and the Mauritanian premier reviewed the situation in the region and discussed cooperation between the sister countries. With regard to the situation in the region, the Mauritanian foreign minister said:

"We informed his majesty of the latest developments and the agreement signed in Algeria, according to which Mauritania gives up all claims over Western Tiris and considers itself detached from this conflict."

He added: "His majesty confirmed to us that Morocco was acquainted with the new situation and would work to safeguard its rights and integrity by all means and to defend its security and the stability of the region."

The Mauritanian minister said that both countries decided to refrain from taking any action that might harm either of them. At the level of bilateral relations his majesty and the Mauritanian premier expressed their satisfaction with the excellent relations between the two countries and have decided to develop them in the interest of both peoples. Morocco expressed the desire to continue its aid and cooperation with Mauritania. In this context, the consultations currently being held between the two countries are to continue, as in the past, in all fields.

Report on 'Diplomatic Incident'

LD111820 Algiers APS in English 1540 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, 11 Aug, (APS)--The formation of the "Free Mauritanian Officers Committee" was announced in Rabat at the time when a Mauritanian delegation led by Prime Minister Heydalla arrived in the Moroccan capital.

This announcement aroused Mauritanian's consternation and created a diplomatic incident since the [word indistinct] schedule by the Mauritanian delegation in honour of Moroccan prime minister was cancelled and the delegation cut short its visit and went back home Friday instead of Saturday.

Press news agencies reported also that Lieutenant Colonel Heydalla refused to make any declaration at the issue of his meeting with King Hassan II.

FLAG RAISED OVER DAKHLA AFTER MAURITANIAN PULLOUT

LD121246 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Moroccan flag was raised yesterday over the administrative headquarters of the city of Dakhla, the capital of the Rio de Oro region now called Tiris el Gharbia. The inhabitants of Dakhla themselves performed the flag-raising ceremony, in a religious atmosphere and in the presence of five senior Moroccan officials and a huge crowd from the city and the region.

So, the Moroccan administration has now taken over the city of Dakhla after Mauritania announced its withdrawal from Tiris el Gharbia in accordance with the agreement signed with the mercenaries in Algiers.

On this occasion, Interior Minister Driss Basri addressed a mass rally. He said that, in line with the wishes of the population, his majesty the king had taken the initiative of sending four of his ministers and Col Maj Ahmed Dlimi to get acquainted with the needs and aspirations of the people of Dakhla. The interior minister pointed out that since the Mauritanian authorities had announced their intention to abandon Tiris el Gharbia his majesty the king reaffirmed that Morocco would never permit the setting up of an artificial entity to the south of Morocco.

These historic events witnessed by Dakhla were observed by a great number of newsmen representing various international radios, TVs and news agencies from all over the world.

Basri Interview

LD122226 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The Moroccan minister of the interior has held a press conference in the city of Dakhla. He said that Morocco has no intention of attacking anyone, but it will remain vigilant and ready to defend the Rio de Oro against any attacks.

Having quoted King Hassan II as saying that Morocco is determined not to allow any authorities who want to encroach on Morocco's security or territorial unity to take control in the area, Mr Basri said that the Moroccan delegation which arrived in Dakhla yesterday, and which comprises four ministers, has come at the request of the population, in order to inform them of the special concern of the Moroccan king and his intention to defend them and to make them part of Moroccan territory and Moroccan national policy.

In reply to a question as to whether Western Tiris has now officially become Moroccan territory, he said that as soon as the Mauritanian Government declared that it had renounced Western Tiris, King Hassan II declared Morocco's firm intention not to allow any authority which wants to encroach on Morocco's security or its territorial unity to be established in this region, which was under Mauritanian administration.

He added that no sooner had the population of the area heard the king's declaration than they expressed, through peaceful demonstrations during the last few days, their Moroccan character and their loyalty to Morocco and the king.

Mr Basri said that as soon as the king of Morocco heard this on the media, he hastened to send a ministerial delegation including in particular the ministers of equipment and national production, agriculture and agrarian reform, and health, to study the urgent needs of the people.

Mr Basri explained: "We could see that through their representatives the entire population of the region expressed their allegiance to Morocco. The ministerial delegation communicated to the people King Hassan's concern and his intention to defend them and to integrate them into Moroccan territory and make them part of Moroccan national policy.

The minister of the interior said that the people expressed their wish to go to Rabat to declare their loyalty to the king, and that he would be informed of this.

Replying to a question about hoisting the Moroccan flag over Dakhla, the minister said that the local population had hoisted it.

In reply to a question as to whether Western Tiris is now under Moroccan sovereignty, Mr Basri said that journalists were invited to visit the Rio do Oro region for confirmation.

Asked why POLISARIO units had not attempted to enter Western Tiris, Mr Basri said that the mercenaries will not be able to do that; he invited journalists to put the question to Algerian mercenaries.

Asked how the Moroccan administration will be established, and whether it will be established after the evacuation of the Mauritanian forces, Mr Basri said that the Moroccan administration is for the moment content to respond to the appeal of the population.

Mr Basri said that the Moroccan parliament is open to the representatives of the people of Rio de Oro, should be express a desire to have representatives there.

Regarding self-determination in this part of the Sahara, the minister of the interior explained that self-determination was accomplished when the Jama'a, on 26 February 1976, expressed the political wish to direct their own affairs in the future. He said that the Madrid agreement, which was signed on 14 November 1975, clearly states that wishes of the people of the Sahara must be expressed through the Jama'a. The administration of the Jama'a was also legally expressed on 26 February 1976, in the presence of the Spanish governor and the two deputy governors of Mauritania and Morocco. If we have supervised what is known as self-determination or a plebiscite or anything else of this kind in this region, we can do the same in other parts of the kingdom.

In reply to a question about the possibility of an outbreak of a war following the establishment of Moroccan authority in Western Tiris, Mr Basri said that Morocco will attack no one, and emphasized that the people of Western Tiris had asked the Moroccan authorities to declare their allegiance to the king, and that will be done.

Asked why Morocco had waited so long before it regarded this territory as Moroccan territory, Mr Basri said that Morocco had been awaiting the departure of the Mauritanian authorities.

Regarding Moroccan reaction to a possible POLISARIO adventure in this part of the Sahara, Mr Basri said that Morocco would defend the region.

Asked whether the Moroccan authorities will act according to the wishes of the population against all others, the minister said that Morocco will do its duty to protect every citizen and every individual whoever and wherever he may be.

The minister concluded his press conference by answering a question as to whether the Mauritanian prime minister has informed King Hassan II how long it will be before the Mauritanian authorities withdraw from the area. He said that he was not qualified to speak for the Mauritanian authorities.

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS 'FIERCE CIASH' WITH 'MERCENARIES'

ID121258 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 79 ID

[Text] Here is a communique from the Information Ministry:

Yesterday,11 August 1979 the town of Bir Enzaran in Boiador District, was subjected to a violent and perfidious attack by mercenaries. The Royal Armed Forces confronted the aggressors in a fierce clash which lasted from 1000 to 1600. The mercenaries suffered heavy losses in life and equipment; they left on the battlefield a number of dead and large quantities of equipment. A certain number of troops of the Royal Armed Forces also were martyred in this battle.

A communique will be issued later by the high command of the Royal Armed Forces giving details of this clash.

May God bless our noble martyrs who have sacrificed their virtuous souls in this holy month, and on the very anniversary of the battle of Badr.

PRIME MINISTER BOUABID RECEIVES U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

ID102107 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Aug 79 ID

[Text] Prime Minister and Justice Minister Mr Maata Bouabid this afternoon received at his office Mr Stephen Solarz, a democratic representative in the U.S. Congress and head of the subcommittee for Africa. After the audience, Mr Solarz made a statement in which he said that his talks with the prime minister and justice minister had covered current problems regarding northwest Africa. The American representative was received this morning by Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

SUDAN

RAILROAD WORKERS THREATEN TO EXTEND STRIKE

JN121408 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug--The Sudanese railroad workers, who began a 1-week strike yesterday, have threatened to extend their strike to 1 month if their demands are not met by the authorities.

The striking workers are demanding a wage increase, a reduction in the prices of consumer goods and the provision of liberties.

The railroad workers trade union is the largest in Sudan, comprising many thousands of members. The strike threatens to paralyze transportation in Sudan and to create a crisis in the transport of goods.

The strike is part of the escalation of the national opposition movement against Numayri. Several trade unions have proclaimed strikes, while farmers in the areas of Al-Jazirah, Al-Manaqil and the White Nile have been on strike for about a month.

NUMAYRI SACKS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT IBRAHIM

NC121012 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 12 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 12 (AFP)--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has sacked First Vice-President 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, it was announced today.

The Sudanese leader has also stripped him of the post of secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union, Sudan's only legal political organization.

No reasons were given in the presidential decree.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CHAD'S THIRD ARMY COMMANDER

JN121448 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug--Hashim 'Uthman, Sudan's Foreign Ministry under secretary, received a message today addressed to President Numayri from Chad's Third Army commander, (Musa Madla Sa'id), about convening the comprehensive Chadian national reconciliation conference.

The message was delivered by Chad's Third Army deputy commander (title as received) 'Ali Hamid Tahir, who stressed the Third Army's support for the initiative and its determination to participate in the conference. He also stressed his appreciation of President Numayri's positive efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Chad.

MINISTER OF STATE TO ATTEND LAGOS MEETING ON CHAD

ID121958 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 79 ID/EA

[Summary] 'Izz ad-Din Hamid, minister of state for cabinet affairs [name and title as heard] leaves for Lagos tomorrow at the head of a Sudanese delegation to attend the ministerial conference for national reconciliation in Chad. The conference will be held from 13-14 August.

TUNISIA

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SAHARAN QUESTION ANALYZED

ID111454 Tunis TAP in English 1413 GMT 11 Aug 79 ID

[Text] Tunis, August 11, (TAP)--The Western Sahara issue has just had new rebounds following Mauritania's decision "to definitively withdraw from an unfair and fratricipal war between Maghreb peoples."

Indeed, when Mauritanian Premier Mohamed Khouna Heydalla arrived in Rabat "to reassure King Hassan II" after the signing by Nouakchott and the POLISARIO Front of a "definitive" peace agreement, it was announced in Rabat that former marshal of the Mauritanian Air Force Wing Commander Abdelkader had created "an Islamic and democratic front of Mauritania." The front (?calls for) the "resignation of the current Mauritanian Government" which is, according to it, guilty of having signed "surrender agreements with the POLISARIO."

The news from Rabat reveals that the notice of the front's creation was taken up wrongly by the Mauritanian delegation led by Premier Heydalla who decided to go off again late Friday when he was scheduled to leave today. MAP, which reports that the Mauritanian premier had conferred Friday evening with the Moroccan king, gives no indication about the terms of the interview or the atmosphere which it took place. However Rabat didn't defer denouncing the agreement signed by Mauritania and the POLISARIO in Algiers. In order to show that Morocco won't give up "the southern part of its Sahara" King Hassan II orders the repatriation of the Morrocan contingent in Zaire as well as the return of the Royal Armed Forces troops stationed in Mauritania and reinforces the Moroccan military apparatus along the southern borders with Mauritania and Algeria.

Morocco refuses categorically to adhere to the principle of the Saharan people's self-determination recommended by the International Court of The Hague, the United Nations and recently by the OAU and affirms that the Moroccanity of Sahara is beyond doubt. Such an assertion is strongly contested by the POLISARIO Front supported by Algeria which is leading "a real war of national liberation against the Moroccan occupier."

A former Spanish colony occupied by Morocco after the departure of Spaniards in [words indistinct] divided between Morocco and Mauritania and claimed by the Saharan populations. This territory of northwest Africa is likely to involve Morocco and Algeria in a war with incalculable consequences.

IRAQI ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR BOURGUIBA

ID121434 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 79 ID

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, special Iraqi presidential envoy, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of local government in Iraq, arrived in Tunis this morning. Tunis is the second stage in the Iraqi envoy's tour to a number of countries of the Arab Maghreb, during which he is delivering written messages from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the heads of state of these countries.

In a statement at the VIP lounge of the Tunis--Carthage airport, the Iraqi envoys said that his tour comes within the context of consultations among the Arab states. He stressed that the message to President Habib Bourguiba deals with the new developments in the Arab region.

Mr 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin was welcomed by Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri; Abdelmajib Karoui, director of the protocol service; and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tunis.

At the VIP lounge, Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri had a talk with the Iraqi envoy in the presence of Mr Mohamed Amamou, head of the Arab Affairs section at the Foreign Ministry.

BOURGUIBA SUSPENDS ACTIVITIES DUE TO ILLNESS

ID111952 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 79 ID

[Text] The presidential palace today issued the following statement: President Habib Bourguiba will suspend his activities for 3 days due to a slight indisposition. As a result, the remaining cultural festivals in the Tunisian provinces will be resumed at a later date.

We pray to God to grant the great struggler all good health and to preserve him for the homeland.

WESTERN SAHARA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TREATY WITH MAURITANIA

ID111300 Algiers APS in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 79 ID

[Text] SDAR (liberated territories), 11/8/79 (APS)--The Government of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic on meeting in Hauza, in the liberated territories, issued a communique in which it stated that the Saharan Government is satisfied with the peace agreement between the POLISARIO Front and Mauritania which was so wished by peoples of the region, Africa and the international community.

"The Government of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic considers this agreement as a decisive step towards the process of completion by our people of its sovereignty on the totality of its national territory," the communique mentioned.

"The Government of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic launches an appeal to the Moroccan Government to stop the war and join the irresistible trend of peace," the communique stressed.

POLISARIO FRONT RELEASES MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS

ID112030 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Aug 79 ID

[Text] The Saharan leaders have given proof once again of their good will by announcing today the release of Mauritanian soldiers taken prisoner at Tichla on 12 July of this year.

The POLISARIO Front's representative in Europe has said that this decision had been taken following a request by the OAU ad hoc committee. The Mauritanian soldiers will return to their country tomorrow and will be accompanied by a representative of the Saharan Red Crescent.

MINISTRY REPORTS 786 MOROCCANS KILLED IN PAST MONTH

ID102236 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 10 Aug 79 ID

[Excerpt] An account of operations for the past month was published yesterday by the Saharan Defense Ministry: 786 Moroccan soldiers were killed in Western Sahara and 74 were taken prisoner. This was the result of a series of operations conducted by the Saharan fighters in the north of Western Sahara and in southern Morocco.

Since the launching of the Houari Boumediene offensive 7 months ago, the communique points out, the fighters have already liberated the major part of the territories and are engaged successfully in extending the liberated zones further every day.

DETAILS OF 12 AUG CABINET SESSION REPORTED

TA121651 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 12 Aug 79 TA

[Excerpts] Our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports on today's Cabinet session:

The possibility of changes in the composition of the Cabinet was not discussed at today's Cabinet session. However, this week the prime minister will hold separate talks with each of the Cabinet members and, following these talks, Mr Begin is likely to decide on changes in the composition of his Cabinet. The changes are likely to be effected next week, if indeed Mr Begin succeeds in coming up with a formula that is acceptable to all the Coalition parties.

Today, the Cabinet heard a report by the foreign minister, within the framework of the discussion which began last week, on the relations between Israel and the United States. Dayan submitted the report of our ambassador in Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, on his meeting with President Carter. The report indicates that the U.S. administration is endeavoring to calm spirits in Israel. This is 'Evron's chief impression of his meeting with Carter. 'Evron made no secret of his assessment that the fence-mending efforts are actually a sign of erosion in the U.S. positions.

In the wake of that report, it was decided that the Cabinet has to undertake an information effort to prevent changes in the American position. Consequently, the Cabinet approved Professor Yadin's trip to the United States this week. Professor Yadin was supposed to go there in a week's time for the opening of the United Jewish Appeal season, but Mr Begin asked him to advance his departure in order to begin an information campaign among the American public. Yadin will meet with heads of Jewish communities and with the American press, but no meetings are scheduled with administration officials.

Head of the Israeli team for the autonomy talks, Dr Yosef Burg, reviewed the fifth round of the talks which took place last week in Haifa. Dr Burg stressed the Israeli achievement in removing a number of extreme Egyptian proposals from the agenda. The interior minister believes this round of talks was very difficult, but it ended with a success for Israel. Dr Burg also gave details about the Egyptian position regarding a change in Resolution 242 as had been presented to him by Dr Khalil.

In this connection, Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, in the context of his report on his talks in Egypt, told the Cabinet that everything Dr Khalil had said about Interior Minister Dr Burg had been positive. Moda'i reported that Dr Khalil said that Dr Burg is a very honest man, that one deals with him openly and, he hopes, that Dr Burg has a similar feeling toward him. I do not remember all the superlatives he used, Moda'i said, but all of them were positive. It is good to know that he has complete faith in everything Dr Burg tells him, Moda'i added. The Cabinet today approved part of the Egyptian proposals the energy minister transmitted regarding the supply of oil from Egypt to Israel.

Discussion of Resolution 242

TA121959 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Aug 79 TA

[Excerpts] Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports on today's Cabinet session: Israel is not changing its firm position on the issue of Resolution 242.

The foreign minister reported on the Carter-'Evron meeting last week. The Cabinet members' conclusion: The United States is moderating its position, but this does not mean abandoning the intention to return Israel to its 1967 borders. The key question is whether a U.S. commitment to Saudi Arabia exists. If this is the case, serious confrontations between Israel and the United States may still be in store.

[Cabinet Secretary Na'or--begin videotape] The prime minister issued instructions that as of now reports about votes taken in the Cabinet will no longer be released. A Cabinet decision is binding on all members of Cabinet and this will be our custom from now on. [end videotape]

Prices of Subsidized Products Increased

TA112010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Aug 79 TA

[Text] These are the main points of the Cabinet decision: As of midnight tonight, the prices of five of the subsidized products will rise by an average of 50 percent. A loaf of regular bread will cost 3.50 Israeli pounds; a bottle of cooking oil will cost 21 Israeli pounds; 1 liter of milk will cost 7.30 Israeli pounds; and 1 kilogram of frozen chicken--size one--will cost 58 Israeli pounds. The prices of public transportation will rise by 25 percent. However, the new rates will become effective in 2 weeks.

The National Insurance Institute will compensate the low-income groups. Welfare and old-age payments will rise by 6 percent starting next month. Allowances for children, which are given large families having four children or more, will also rise by 6 percent.

'Panic Buying' in Tel Aviv

TA101530 Jerusalem POST in English 10 Aug 79 p 1 TA

[By Alan Elsner]

[Text] Tel Aviv. Another wave of panic buying developed in supermarkets here yesterday, set off by reports that the treasury is planning to lift subsidies on basic goods over the weekend.

Reports yesterday that the prices of bread, margarine, oil, milk, dairy products and frozen poultry would go up by an average of 50-60 percent resulted in what one north Tel Aviv supermarket manager described as "a stampede" in the shops yesterday. The reports said that the price increases would occur within the next few days, before the publication of the July cost-of-living index on Wednesday. That figure is expected to evoke opposition from ministers to further increases in food prices.

The main demand yesterday was for frozen poultry. margarine, and especially cooking oil. Several supermarkets instituted rationing of oil, limiting each customer to one bottle only when their stocks began to run low.

EGYPT ASKS GOVERNMENT NOT TO REVEAL OIL PROPOSALS

TA130600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Aug 79 TA

[Text] Egypt has made it clear to Israel that if the details of Egypt's proposal on the supply of oil from the Sinai oil wells after they are returned to Egypt is leaked, it will create a burden on the negotiations regarding this issue.

Our correspondent says that Egypt's proposal is being kept secret and, yesterday, Minister Moda'i reported on it at the Cabinet session. No decision was approved at yesterday's meeting. The Cabinet gave guidelines to the negotiating team.

Our correspondent mentions that upon his return from Cairo Minister Moda'i said Egypt's new proposal does not contradict the promises given in Washington and will enable Israel to get over 2 million tons a year--about a quarter of Israel's annual consumption.

WEIZMAN CALLS ON CABINET TO REFRAIN FROM MUDSLINGING

TA1101644 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Aug 79 p 4 (Sabbath Supplement) TA

[Arye Tzimuqi article: "Weizman: To Stop Self-Castigation"]

[Excerpts] "As a pilot I see things in the right proportions and in a balanced manner--both the positive and the negative. This is how Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman described himself. At that stormy Cabinet session conducted in the shadow of Dayan's severe remarks and his criticism of the government's malfunctioning, he added: "We have to stop this self-castigation; we must stop running to the media prior to clarifying disputed issues in a friendly conversation."

Weizman was the only one among the ministers to pay attention to Dayan's remarks and tried to balance the severe impression that the foreign minister's criticism of the government's policy created. In Weizman's opinion, there is nothing more serious than a lack of friendship and camaraderie among the members of the same team--such as the government. Not in keeping with his style, Weizman appealed in a "fatherly" tone to the members of the government asking them to change their ways, act with greater consideration for each other, see thing in a more balanced light and, most important of all, clarify disputed matters by picking up the telephone.

Weizman came to the Cabinet meeting equipped with a lot of papers, ready to answer every one of the complaints leveled against him at the previous Cabinet meeting.

As for Dayan's remarks describing the country's predicament in bleak colors, maintaining that the country's negative image was influencing the formulation of decisions against us and weakening our ability to stand firm, Weizman reacted by pointing to our increased military power which could insure our standing firm against our enemies. 'Ezer did not try to hide his satisfaction after receiving Dayan's apology, including a retraction of his remarks based on false information which he had received about Shim'on Peres' trip to Egypt.

While recent Cabinet meetings have served as an arena for aggressive remarks, an antagonistic attitude and criticism by Dayan, they are also an arena for repeated attempts by Weizman to introduce a good atmosphere for the deliberations and maintain calm. Not that Weizman is pleased with various government moves but, when the time comes, he sees himself as slated for a higher position and is already behaving accordingly. Weizman is well aware of his great public popularity, which is even more blatant against the background of the decline in the government's popularity as a whole and of certain members as individuals. Weizman knows well that the secret of his personal prestige lies in the success of the Ministry of Defense and the military negotiations which he is conducting with Egypt.

He is very sensitive to Begin's reactions, because it is clear to him that as long as Begin is in office he makes the decisions in the government, just as all strata of the Likud regard him as the most authoritative and acceptable person, as do wide circles in the general public.

Weizman carefully avoids being involved in other ministers' "courtyards" and he doesn't even involve himself in foreign policy, for which Moshe Dayan is responsible.

Until recently there were many points of agreement between Weizman and Dayan, such as opposition to requisitioning private land, opposition to the establishment of settlements in Arab population concentrations and so forth. But recently there has been an increase of differences between them.

'Ezer believes that it is possible to achieve real peace with Egypt because of both countries' common interest in this. Therefore, we should do everything possible to create a relationship of mutual confidence between the two leaders. Weizman demanded a clarification of what could be done without U.S. involvement in the negotiations with Egypt. He repeatedly stresses that we have to understand Egypt's predicament--it is totally isolated in the Arab world and under attack by most Arab countries--and we have to see things in the right proportion.

When the severe charge about the presence of Egyptian military radar in Al-'Arish was made Weizman said: "What can you do if they don't have civilian radar?" He added in the same breath: "But we will get that out of there as well." His reaction to another Egyptian violation at Al-'Arish of the peace treaty was: "What can we do if Egypt doesn't have many civilian pilots?" Weizman asked ironically: "What would happen if we wait until the military pilots working at the Al-'Arish airfield can train civilians for the jobs, as if it would be a problem for them to put on civilian clothes today?" For this reason, Weizman, who believes in his powers of persuasion with the Egyptians, strongly rejects what he calls "the artificial storms" which Israel creates about various Egyptian acts.

The defense minister has reservations about the threatening language heard every morning about delaying the withdrawal from Sinai in reaction to various Egyptian violations of the agreement. In his opinion, threats will turn the atmosphere sour and contribute nothing to improving it. This is also the reason for the lack of importance that Weizman attaches to the stationing of the UN Emergency Force in Sinai because, in his opinion, this affects our relations with the United States and not our relations with Egypt, since we have made a peace treaty with Egypt. Thus he attaches greater importance to joint supervision or the establishment of some mechanism which would totally eliminate any involvement by foreign forces between Israel and Egypt.

Weizman continues to follow his own policy in exhausting everything that is common with Egypt, his Weltanschauung in favor of exhausting all possibilities of coexistence with the Arab neighbors including the West Bank Arabs. It is for this reason that he opposes the establishment of settlements near Arab population concentrations just as he strongly opposes the requisitioning of private land--moves which, in his opinion, only serve to create ferment among the Arabs.

However, the paradox lies in the fact that it is during Weizman's period of "rule" over the territories that we see an erosion of Israeli control of the West Bank, to no small degree because of the military government, which lacks a clear policy, thus accelerating the deterioration of relations between the population of the territories and Israel.

Dayan consistently and severely criticises the Defense Ministry's policy in the territories, accusing it of losing his achievements when he served as minister of defense.

Weizman's "problem" is that he does not fit the bill of a party leader. For this reason there is a lot of hesitation and doubt among many Herut leaders when they have to view him as Begin's "number two," with all its implications. However, it is clear even to the greatest hesitators in Herut that if they "seek life" and do not want to lose the government they have no other choice but to cultivate Weizman as the leading personality in the Likud list, after Begin, of course.

To the regret of members of Herut Weizman does not seek and does not find his friends among the members of Likud especially, and so he maintains close ties with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, with whom he meets frequently. This is also the source of the various and frequent rumors about possible links and various options for the composition of a coalition despite denials from both Peres and Weizman.

In the Herut camp there is a common language between Weizman and Minister David Levi despite their basically different background. Their common interests, mainly the interest in keeping power in the hands of Herut, are the cement that binds them and the pair are the main Herut votegetters.

At the same time Weizman is most acceptable to the liberals in the Likud, thanks to his moderate views--which are also the reason for many of Yigal Horowitz's people's reservations about him--and despite these views the NRP youth and other groups are conducting a continuing "flirtation" with him.

TV REPORT: ECONOMIC STRENGTH RESTS ON 'U.S. SHOULDERS'

TA102057 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 10 Aug 79 TA

[Excerpts] Appearing before the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, Moshe Dayan said that he was not the only one concerned about the economic and social situation in Israel. The U.S. administration was also concerned about this issue. The State Department worries so much about us that in a cable Secretary of State Vance sent to Moshe Dayan the U.S. secretary of state wanted to know whether Israel's situation was as grave as reported in the press.

This week, we also tried to see whether there was room for U.S. anxiety. The economic situation of a family, a society of a country is multifaceted. In order to verify things one needs various data of something one could describe as national bookkeeping. Our economic correspondent Elisha' Spiegelman tries to trace the image of our economy with the help of our graphic designers Yosi Schwartz and Hanaz Qamiski.

[Spiegelman--begin videotape] In the domestic aspect of daily life our economic profile is very well known: We buy, we buy everything, whoever can afford it--foodstuffs, clothing, appliances. Prices gallop at the inflationary pace of 80 percent. There is a shortage in manpower. There are wage demands and frequent wage increases. This is the situation on the domestic level.

What about the foreign aspect? We will state the facts, all in dollars. Exports: During the first 7 months of this year exports amounted to about $2.5 billion as compared to $2.15 billion during the same period last year.

The diamond business was the only one that suffered a severe crisis and, excluding it, the exports of goods increased by 25 percent compared to same period last year.

On the other hand there are the imports: During the first quarter of this year imports increased, excluding direct imports for security needs, at a rate of approximately 23 percent as compared to the same period last year. It reached $2.5 billion in 3 months, as compared to less than $2 billion in the same period last year. However, the annual scope of imports is much larger than the exports. The largest increase in imports was in irrigation equipment and in products such as cars, washing machines and so on.

The deficit in the balance of payments: The total, which does not take into account direct imports for security needs, increased by some $250 million in 3 months. It is estimated that this year's deficit will be larger than last year's by some $1 billion and will reach a total of $4.5 billion.

The import of capital is the means to finance the deficit. The funds are brought in from all over the world, at different terms ranging from grants and gifts to bank loans. The largest lender is the U.S. administration.

The grants and gifts constitute a large part of the capital imported, however, the loans made to Israel are not insignificant. At the beginning of this year, our foreign debts amounted to $12.25 billion. This year, our debts will increase by approximately $2 billion. That is to say, some $4,000 per person. The return of debts will reach more than $2 billion this year.

Illuminating points are the balances, the reserves: From $1.25 billion on the eve of the economic turnover the reserves have reached $2.7 billion.

In sum, the exports as well as the imports have increased. The deficit has been rapidly increasing. However, it is very easy for Israel to recruit funds and accumulate reserves in the international market. Is there room for anxiety then?

Israel's economy is indeed producing and strengthening. However, a basic component of its strength is the U.S. shoulders on which it reclines. In the past, we did not prepare ourselves for the possibility that this aid may be reduced or delayed. Maybe this constitutes the grounds for anxiety. [end videotape]

EFFORTS TO PERSUADE WEST BANKERS TO JOIN TALKS RENEWED

TA112300 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 11 Aug 79 TA

[Text] Israel has renewed its efforts to persuade notables from the territories to join in the autonomy talks. Senior Israeli figures tried to convince several personalities from Nabulus to meet with the Egyptian prime minister during his visit in Haifa. However, they refused.

The defense minister has recently been receiving at his Tel Aviv office many activists from Nabulus, including Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'a and Hakmit al-Masri. According to Arab sources, the defense minister recommended to the notables from Nabulus that they join the autonomy talks.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari points out that Israel's activity among notables in the territories began after the Americans managed to persuade many activists from the West Bank to travel to the United States.

TERRORISTS, MILITIAS EXCHANGE FIRE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA112030 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1945 GMT 11 Aug 79 TA

[Text] Metulla, 11 Aug--Twice during this weekend the terrorists attacked positions in At-Tayyibah held by the militia forces led by Major Haddad. The militias returned the fire and no casualties were reported.

The terrorists penetrated and withdrew through UNIFIL lines in the area controlled by the Nigerian unit. The Nigerians control only a part of At-Tayyibah while the other part of the village is controlled by Haddad's men.

On Friday morning, a commando force from Haddad's militias attacked and blew up a house in Al-'Izziyah, south of Tyre. All the residents of the area were evacuated before the empty house was blown up. The commando unit returned with loot which included military equipment, weapons, handgrenades and so on.

Exchanges of artillery fire with terrorist positions in the Beaufort Castle took place on Friday. The villages of Al-Qulay'ah and Tall al-Khirbah were shelled. No casualties were reported.

PRESS AGENCY REPORTS IDF ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA112154 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2135 GMT 11 Aug 79 TA

[Text] Sidon, 11 Aug--Tonight, Palestinian sources said that Israeli forces had launched an attack from the air and the sea in southern Lebanon. However, these forces were repelled by the terrorists and their Muslim allies. The sources said that a group of Israeli commandos had landed via the sea at Ra's al-'Ayn, 8 kilometers south of Tyre. However, the force withdrew following brief exchanges of fire.

Two large helicopters tried to land additional soldiers nearby. However, they were met by strong fire from the ground. The terrorists suffered no casualties.

Radio Beirut later reported that additional Israeli commandos, aided by missile boats and helicopters, attacked the southern Lebanese coast this evening. The radio did not elaborate.

Palestinian sources further reported that three missile boats fired at least four shells at the refugee camps. Planes flew at low altitude in the same area, but did not open fire.

The sources said the invasion had started at 2100 [1900 GMT]. A few minutes later, Israeli flares lit up the area of the southern coast. An hour later, the missile boats were still patrolling the coast.

IDF Denial of Attack

TA112306 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2300 GMT 11 Aug 79 TA

[Excerpt] Israeli military sources have denied the report of an Israeli attack in southern Lebanon and said there was no such occurrence.

PAPER REPORTS AL-AMAL PLOT AGAINST KHOMEYNI FOILED

NC111635 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 11 Aug 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Aug 11 (AFP)--Authorities here have uncovered a plot to assassinate Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, seize power and arrest most of Iran's liberals, the weekly OMMID IRAN said today.

The assassination attempt had failed "at the last minute following the arrest of people belonging to the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim organization Al-Amal," the paper added.

The plan had been for attackers to murder Mr Bazargan as he entered Ayatollah Khomeyni's residence in Qom south of here, the paper continued. Terrorists were then to have entered the ayatollah's residence under cover of the ensuing disorder and sprayed "bullets at everyone there including the ayatollah himself", it added.

OMMID IRAN (the Hope of Iran) said one of Iran's present leaders, with links with Al-Amal, was to have taken power under the guise of defending the Islamic Republic. He was then to have proclaimed a state of emergency and started arresting most of the country's liberals, it added. The paper said that a number of guards at the ayatollah's residence who were close to Al-Amal had "disappeared" following discovery of the plan, but it gave no further details.

Al-Amal was founded by the leader of the Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon, Imam Musa as-Sadr, who has been missing since last August when he went to Libya.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER IMANIAN RESIGNS

LD111717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Sadeq Tabataba'i, the government spokesman, in an interview with the PARS NEWS AGENCY, announced today: Gen Asghar Imanian, commander of the air force, has resigned. His successor has not been appointed yet. Sadeq Tabataba'i added that until a successor is appointed for General Imanian, Brigadier General Mostafavi temporarily will take over supervision of the air force command. The government spokesman also announced that Ezzatollah Nura'i has been selected as the successor [janeshin] of the defense minister and act under the supervision of Denfense Minister General Riyahi. [as heard] According to the government spokesman's announcement, Col Molavi has also been appointed as successor [janeshin] to the ground force command.

KHOMEYNI GUARDS CLASH WITH COMMITTEE GUARDING U.S. EMBASSY

JN121620 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] Tehran--Violent clashes took place today between Khomeyni's Guards and elements of the U.S. Embassy Guards Committee in Tehran, following the Khomeyni Guards Command's decision to dissolve the committee.

News reports received from Tehran say that the two sides' exchange of fire caused the embassy to close down for today until necessary security measures are taken. These reports did not indicate the number of casualties resulting from the clashes. It is known that the Iranian Foreign Ministery earlier asked the Khomeyni Guards Command to assume the task of guarding the U.S. Embassy , thereby replacing the committee.

Committee Guards To Be Prosecuted

LD 121754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Following dissolution of the U.S. Embassy Committee, the central news bureau of the Voice and Profile of the Iranian Islamic Republic, in a conversation with an official at the central committee, has learned that the files of the members of the U.S. Embassy Committee will be submitted to the prosecutor general of the revolution within a week at the latest. Members of the dissolved U.S. Embassy Committee were released on bail after the committee's station was taken over by the Central Committee Guards.

'FINAL COUNT' IN COUNCIL OF EXPERTS ELECTION ANNOUNCED

LD111326 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0930 GMT on 11 August reports that the "final counts" of votes cast for Tehran candidates for the Council of Experts was completed at 0200 this morning. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes was Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmud Taleqani, who received 2,010,851 votes. The lowest number of votes was received by 'Abbas Mazlumi Jahromi, who gained only 19 votes. The votes received by other prominent candidates are as follows:

Abolhasan Bani Sadr--1,763,126
Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri--1,672,980
DR 'Ali Golzari Ghafuri--1,560,970
DR Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Behesht:--1,547,550
Engineer Sahabi--1,449,713
Seyyed 'Abdolkarim Musavi Ardebili--1,389,747
DR 'Abbas Sheybani--1,387,813
Mrs Monireh Gorji--1,313,731
Ali Mohammad 'Arab--1,305,136
DR 'Ali Asghar Haj Seyyed Javadi--298,308
Mrs A'zam Taleqani--142,430
Hojat ol-Eslam Mohammad Sadeq Khalkhali--115,334
Mrs Roqiyeh Daneshgari--115,334
Mrs Tahereh Saffarsadeh--101,788
Mrs Cahra Rahnavard--77,932
Ehsan Tabari [Tudeh Party Central Committee member]-- 47,225
Hasan Nazih--44,765
Nureddin Kianuri [Tudeh Party first secretary]--32,627

Having announced the final counts, the announcer states: "The interior minister announces today that after attending to public complaints about the manner in which the elections were held, the date when the Council of Experts is to convene will be announced next week. The interior minister also said that those objecting to the elections for the Council of Experts may produce their complaints between today and tomorrow."

Commenting on the completion of elections and voting counts throughout the country, the interior minister is quoted as saying: "Those receiving a majority of votes in the Council of Experts elections, having proved the absence of any violation and having received their credentials from executive bodies, shall be recognized as representatives to the Council of Experts."

"According to our correspondent, more than 2.1 million voters have participated in the Tehran elections for the Council of Experts."

Party Official Resigns

LD101405 Tehran AYANDEGAN in Persian 7 Aug 79 p 1, 2 LD

[Excerpts] Tabriz, AYANDEGAN correspondent--Fahimi, an official of the Islamic Republican Party in Azarbayjan, has resigned in protest against the elections held in the province. His statement says: "We see that these elections were just like those of the rastakhiz [referring to the shah's one-party elections] in the past."

Similarly, the Muslim People's Republican Party of Azarbayjan sent a telegram to the prime minister requesting the dispatch of a delegation to enquire into contraventions and the exercise of undue influence in the Azarbayjan elections.

Governor Arrested for Election Fraud

LD101551 Tehran ETTLA'AT in Persian 8 Aug 79 p 2 LD

[Text] Zanjan, PARS NEWS AGENCY--Governor Mehdi Borhani has been arrested by the Khorramabad Revolution Guards Corps for counterrevolutionary activities and interfering in the elections to the Council of Experts. The PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent reports from Zanjani: "In view of the fact that Mehdi Borhani was the former governor of Abhar under the past regime and since there are numerous dossiers on him at Zanjan, he should be sent there for trial." However in a telephone conversation with the ETTLA'AT correspondent in Khorramabad, the governor-general of Lorestan did not confirm the arrest of the governor of Khorramabad, but said that he was still in Khorramabad.

Reports of Election Protests

LD101533 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran ETTLA'AT in Persian on 7 August gives several instances of protests against the recent election. On page 3 there is a brief report via the PARS NEWS AGENCY from Zahedan that on the morning of 6 August a group of people of various classes in Babol staged a protest march against the way the elections had been held in Baluchestan. The reports notes that those taking part were Shi'ites, and the slogans carried referred to the undemocratic nature of the elections and called for new elections to be held. The shops in Babol apparently were shut down.

Page 12 of the same newspaper gives details of a statement by the Society for the Liberation of Women protesting against the elections, as well as a report of a protest by the seven-group coalition against radio and television for not allowing their candidates broadcasting time as promised.

KEYHAN on 7 August reports on page 1 that the Association of Guilds and Religious Societies of Mashhad sent a telegram on the previous day, 6 August, to the prime minister and the interior minister protesting against the elections held in the province of Khorasan. A similar telegram from the theological seminary [Howseh-e Elmiyeh] of Mashhad read thus: "From the manner in which the elections for the Council of Experts was held, the Iranian nation felt that certain methods of the past were still being continued and that there was no difference between these elections and those of the past." The telegram complains of a candidate who polled over 200,000 votes, yet his name was not announced in the returns. The telegrams concludes thus: "The staff of the theological seminary of Mashhad does not view these elections as conforming to the precepts of freedom, and considers them void."

Engineer Gharavi, the governor-general of East Azarbayjan, is reported to have gone to Mashhad suddenly to meet Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and to have requested permission to declare the elections at Tabriz invalid. The ayatollah is said to have replied that if this happened, the elections for the whole of Azarbayjan would also have to be declared void.

On page 5 of 7 August KEYHAN reports similar telegrams of protest from Qazvin, complaining of fraudulent practice at the recent elections there, and from Qasre Shirin, where the election supervisor resigned and demanded the elections be declared invalid.

Under a heading "The Protests of Individuals and Groups Against the Elections Will Be Investigated," the interior minister's replies to some of these criticisms is given on the front page of the 7 August KEYHAN.

The minister said that three members of the central committee of the election headquarters committee had been sent to Burujen to hold an inquiry. In the case of the protest in Shiraz the minister says that Ayatollah Mahallati's son failed to obtain a majority in the election, and goes on to say that "since Ayatollah Dastgheyb has become a member of the Council of Experts, I do not think there will be any objections from him."

FRG SHOULD COMPENSATE FOR CANCELLATION OF NUCLEAR CONTRACT

LD101116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Following the unilateral cancellation of the contract for the construction of the nuclear reactor in Bushehr by the German contractor, Fereydun Sahhabi, head of the Iranian Atomic Organization, said: With the cancellation of this contract the financial damage to Iran amounts to DM 5 billion. He said that the German Government should take measures to compensate the damages to Iran. [passage indistinct]

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR TALKS WITH EEC

LD121056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] A delegation headed by 'Ali Ardalan, minister of economic affairs and finance, left for Brussels today to hold discussions on trade and economic relations between Iran and the EEC. EEC authorities have requested the renewal of their economic and trade relations with Iran. Mohammad 'Ali Molavi, general director of Markazi Bank of Iran, and Sirus Ebrahimzadeh, deputy in charge of international and economic affairs of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, are accompanying 'Ali Ardalan on the trip.

On 15 August the delegation will visit Denmark at the invitation of the Government of Denmark, and will hold discussions with Danish economic officials.

NATIONAL GUIDANCE MINISTER: PRESS BILL RATIFIED

LD121306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] In a press conference today, Dr Naser Minatchi announced ratification of the press bill by the Council of Ministers and the Revolution Council and explained some points about the press bill, freedom of the press and the role played by the press and those writers who were affiliated with the former regime.

He said: We should remember how a number of newspapers and a group of writers damaged Mossadeq and his government, had freedom fighters and strugglers imprisoned and handed the country to Zahedi [general who overthrew the Mossadeq government in a military coup d'etat and brought the shah back] on a platter. At present, the same group of writers are claiming to be part of the revolution and freedom fighters, and are calling themselves committed intellectuals.

Dr Minatchi added: All documents concerning the affiliated press are available in the Ministry of National Guidance. These documents prove that these affialiated journalists intend to damage the revolution in Iran. He added: The press bill, which has been ratified, provides freedom for the responsible and committed writers and papers, but not for those who intend to attack the revolution.

The minister of guidance said: The press bill was seriously attacked and protested against during the period that it was being studied. Those who protested considered each and every article of the bill and the bill itself as unacceptable. The amazing point is that they protested but did not submit any solutions. He said: At present we are under pressure from two opposing sides, one being the press and the other the wall posters, in which people accuse the Ministry of National Guidance of being counterrevolutionary and of not being able to face the affiliated press.

Dr Naser Minatchi added: In some of the papers it is claimed that there has not been a revolution as such in the country and the only difference has been a change of pictures, Dictatorship and suppression are there just as before. I would like to ask you here, is this really what the Iranian revolution amounts to?

Commenting on censorship, he said: Papers always complain about censorship. But in the period since the revolution, the government has not put the slightest degree of pressure on the press. If any journalist can claim, honestly and with a clear conscience, that we have subjected him to censorhip, he will be rewarded.

The minister of national guidance, following up on this point, said: Accusations levelled against the revolution and the government in the national press are exactly the same as those we read in foreign papers. Referring to the press strike during the revolution, he said: There is no doubt that the press strike was a national and humanitarian reaction, buy could the press do otherwise when faced with the wave of revolution by the people, and write whatever the Pahlavi regime told them? Of course not. We observed how gloriously the people supported the press. Unfortunately, the same press has provoken anger in the people. When people protest against the affiliated papers and journalists, the papers scream that the country does not have any laws, that the government is incapable of stopping the angry mobs and that freedom has been lost in the country.

Minatchi Interview

LD121356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Unidentified correspondent's interview with Iranian National Guidance Minister Naser Minatchi--date and place not specified--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Minatchi, it now appears that the press bill has been ratified and that it is going to be implemented. As the minister of national guidance, do you really believe that the necessary freedoms commensurate with our revolution have been envisaged in the bill?

[Answer] I must say that the freedoms desired by the people and the press have been secured. The present law will guarantee such freedoms. Naturally, there are certain clauses in the law which have always been the object of criticism, clauses concerning the violation of people's rights. In this context, should publishers, papers or writers violate others' rights, society has the right to ask for their prosecution. However, this has nothing to do with freedom of the press or the activities of newspapers and periodicals, for all the desired freedoms have been envisaged in the bill.

[Question] As for the newspapers which are continuing their publications without having the necessary permission from the Ministry of National Guidance, are these papers required to apply for a permit under the new lay?

[Answer] Definitely. All newspapers which had licenses in the past to publish are required to apply again within 3 months and acquire new permits. A commission comprising the representatives of the press, editors, [word indistinct] university, lawyers and judges, as well as the representative of the spriritual community, must review the request. Once the commission approves, then the necessary permit will be issued. As for those lacking such permits, they, too, must apply. [as heard].

[Question] What about those managing the newspapers which in the past were collaborating with the former regime and SAVAK?

[Answer] There is an article in the new press law, according to which those who are collaborating with the former regime, including Cabinet ministers, legislators and (army) commanders, as well as anyone who collaborated with the former regime or was a member of SAVAK are forbidden to apply for a permit. Should these individuals apply, their requests will not be accepted by the commission.

As for former legislators, the Revolution Council has, in passing the bill, made an exception in the case of legislators who resigned their posts in the Majlis on the order of the imam; these people may apply for permits.

[Question] In today's meeting, a number of publishers requested assistance from the Ministry of National Guidance to implement a purge in the press by providing them with a list of those who were SAVAK members or who received salaries under the former regime. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] The point is that it used to be thought that there was no need for a press law. Consequently, if the government had complied, it would have been criticized. At any rate, this is something which ought to have been handled withing the framework of the law. Now that the press law is to be implemented, the commission, which embraces distinguished members of society, will see to this issue. All the necessary documents are available to the commission. I am making it clear that all those with affiliation to the former regime and [word indistinct] must not apply for a permit. For once their applications are received by the commission, considering that the necessary evidence is available, they would not benefit from being exposed by the commission. However, should they decide to apply just the same and once their request has been turned down, considering that an arbitration court to attend to their complaints is available and that the Ministry of National Guidance and the commission must present their evidence, it is natural to expect that the available documents and evidence will be made public.

[Question] What is the view of the Ministry of National Guidance about AYANDEGAN?

[Answer] It should be made clear that the issue of AYANDEGAN is separate from the AYANDEGAN printing house. As I have pointed out already, this press does not belong to AYANDEGAN; it belongs to (Yadegaran) company. According to the available evidence, some of which has already been made public, it was set up with foreign capital; it was also affiliated to and owned by Daryush Homayun [former minister of information and tourism under the former regime]. Therefore, it is actually below the dignity of these editors and writers to identify themselves with a press and protest about a press which belongs to foreigners and was set up with their capital; now it has been confiscated in favor of the oppressed. Consequently, these protests and the claims that simply because the printing house has been closed, therefore there no longer exists any freedom and that newspapers will no longer enjoy any freedom are not really appropriate. It is not really right to condemn the government, the laws, the newspapers and everything else simply because a printing house affiliated to a foreign government, like Israel, has been closed.

The best reason for this is that Radio Israel did not mention any other newspaper but AYANDEGAN and its banning. This radio, after shouting about this issue, even levelled accusations against the leadership and the government and in favor of AYANDEGAN. The reason is that Israel was really hurt by this action, claiming that this property had been expropriated. So this is the best evidence substantiating the action taken by the Revolution Court in issuing the order as it did.

[Question] Apart from the minister of national guidance, can any other department or official issue orders for the censorship or closure of newspapers?

[Answer] Even the Ministry of National Guidance cannot issue orders for an arrest or closure. This is a misconception on the part of journalists to believe that the National Guidance Ministry is responsible for such actions. This is not our task or duty; this is something which falls under the jurisdiction of the prosecutor general. It is up to prosecutors general in Tehran or other regions to attend to such complaints or bring charges in such cases. The role and duty of the National Guidance Ministry is to regulate the operation of the press, attending to requests and issuing permits. We have no other role, as far as the executive aspect of the matter is concerned.

[Question] As you know, a number of employees of AYANDEGAN have been arrested. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] This has nothing to do with the National Guidance Ministry, for this action was taken on the basis of an order issued by the Revolution Court. Naturally, the matter will be investigated in the near future to see whether they are innocent. The point is that there exists a considerable amount of evidence against all of them, like AYANDEGAN, its press and so forth. Obviously, the Revolution Court will investigate the matter, and those who are innocent will be freed.

RIVAL DEMONSTRATORS CLASH IN TEHRAN OVER AYANDEGAN CLOSURE

LD121700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Today thousands of rival groups of demonstrators, some supporting and others opposing the closure of the AYANDEGAN newspaper, staged a march. In the course of the march, which took place in front of the Tehran University campus, a number of people unfortunately were injured as a result of several clashes between rival groups. The injured people were taken to the hospital. Today a group of demonstrators were shouting slogans against the action by the prosecutor general of the Islamic Revolution in ordering the closure of the newspaper. Another group, supporting the action, opposed the former group.

MOJAHEDIN GROUP CALLS FOR UNITY MARCHES IN WAKE OF CLASHES

LD130724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 13 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution organization has issued a statement in which it calls on the Muslim and revolutionary citizens of Tehran to stage a march on two routes at 1700 today. The first route comprises Sepah Square, Ferdowsi Street, and Enqelab Street heading toward (?Tehran) University. The second will begin at Imam Hoseyn Square and move toward the university.

The statement also says: Once again, the puppets of foreigners and those people defeated in the revolution and in the elections to the Council of Experts to study the draft constitution, who have repeatedly manifested their counterrevolutionary nature during their disgraceful and ominous collaborations, are staging demonstrations in support of the newspaper AYANDEGAN in cooperation with the self-exposed Zionism and imperialism.

These people have now joined Radio Israel, which refers to Imam Khomeyni as a tool of inhuman deeds and a friend of the so-called famous terrorist, 'Arafat. We are, therefore, calling on you to stage a march in support of unity and the decisive action taken by the Revolution Court which closed AYANDEGAN.

TV TO CUT BACK PROGRAMS SO PEOPLE WILL GO TO MOSQUES

LD121756 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 12 August 1979 carries an announcement on behalf of the Voice and Profile of the Iranian Islamic Republic--Iranian radio and television--which begins with a passage extolling the unity and solidarity of the Iranian people in the course of the revolution. The statement goes on to say:

"Since the mosques, these bases of Islam, are open to everyone without the need of a membership card or a recommendation from an official--only Islamic solidarity is needed to bring people together--and since the mosques are the main venue of the people where the people feel their own status and standing, and since the month of Ramadan, this great reason for the people to gather together, is now approaching the beginning of its second half and the nights of vigil are approaching, and since the imam has put great stress on the need for congregating in mosques and discussing the problems of this country, which are the problems of the Islamic Republic and the problems of Islam; therefore, the Profile of Iran from 13 through 17 August will end its programs for the day after the evening news. This will be done so that there will not be any obstacle for Muslims attending and congregating in mosques."

The announcement does not mention any curtailment in radio output. The exact time at which the television service will be discontinued each evening is not given.

OLD ARMS LICENSES CANCELED, NEW ONES TO BE ISSUED

JN121937 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Aug 79 JN

[Text] In a communique issued today, the 92d Armored Division in Khuzestan says that all persons owning licensed or unlicensed arms will be issued arms licenses in 2 weeks.

The communique calls on persons owning such arms to report to the 92d Armored Division headquarters in Ahvaz so that they can be issued new licenses. The communique says that arms licenses issued in the past are canceled and are thus null and void.

KORDESTAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SENDS OPEN LETTER TO KHOMEYNI

LD101221 Tehran AYANDEGAN in Persian 6 Aug 79 p 1, 12 LD

[Open letter from Democratic Party of Kordestan to Ayatollah Khomeyni; no date given]

[Excerpts] The Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Kordestan has addressed the critical situation of Kordestan in an open letter to Ayatollah Khomeyni. It stressed that only the Ayatollah Khomeyni could prevent a catastrophe in the area.

The Democratic Party asks the following questions in the open letter:

At a meeting you had with us, you said that there was no discrimination in the Islamic Republic. Why, then, although there are hundreds of thousands of Kurds in the region of Urumiyeh and Salmas and in several other towns, is not a single Kurd a member of the Islamic Revolution councils of these towns? You said that you defend the downtrodden: Why, then, have 120,000 guns been given by the gendarmerie to the landlords and those in a high position to be used against the peasants and the people's organizations? You said that we must preserve internal law and order ourselves: Why, then, do the Komitehs of Urumiyeh and Kermanshah as well as the army and gendarmerie try to impose outside guards as policemen and gendarmes on the people of Kordestan?

The letter continues: The National Democratic Party of Kordestan is a purely national and Iranian party and is supported by the majority of the working people of Kordestan. To insult it by accusing it of being dependent [on a foreign country] is treason to the Islamic revolution of Iran.

We declare openly and with full awareness of our responsibilities that Kordestan is on the verge of a great catastrophe and that a large-scale plot is in the process of being hatched against its oppressed people. So far, revolutionary patience and self-restraint has prevented this catastrophe from occurring. Our slogan for the future is "forbearance, and a sense of responsibility before the Islamic revolution. However, all the evidence points to a catastrophe coming soon, and only you can prevent this. It is only the power and influence of your word which can put the conspirators in their places."

TWO PERSONS WITH SOVIET-MADE GRENADES ARRESTED

LD101720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] Two persons--(Ebrahim Ameri) and (Mohammad Hasan Ameri)--were arrested today by the Revolution Guards in the (Sad Dastgah) area of Khorramshahr. Two Kalashnikov macnineguns and a number of Soviet-made handgrenades were seized from them. Their file is receiving consideration at the Khorramshahr and Abadan Islamic Revolution Court.

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT ASKS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 11 Aug 79 ID

[Text] The request to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for political asylum made by a diplomat of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was granted and was given political asylum. One of the diplomats of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul, who was assigned by the reactionary circles of his country to carry out acts of espionage [words indistinct] the real nature of the Great Sawr Revolution and the peaceful policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has recently presented a petition to concerned Afghan authorities to be granted Afghanistan citizenship and his request has been accepted and he is now known as an Afghan.

This person is called Seyyed Sadiq Shah and was a resident of (Bela agency), (Sakhilabad) (Safar Knot) and he was appointed as deemed necessary by the reactionary circles of Pakistan on 14/10/78 as member of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Kabul [as heard] for collection of information and espionage activities.

Seyyed Sadiq Shah former member of the Embassy of Pakistan, during his stay in Kabul by virtue of his own logic and reason reached the conclusion that the order which has been established in Afghanistan is in the interests of the toiling people of Afghanistan and of the region and its efforts are aimed at elimination of feudalism and reaction and consistently enjoy the support of all the toilers of the world. In the light of this reasons he voluntarily petitioned for and requested political asylum from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Thursday morning, Seyyed Sadiq Shah in a press conference attended by editors in chief and representatives of the publishing institutions exposed the espionage network of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul. In response to a question by one of the correspondents on the policy of the state of Pakistan vis-a-vis the state of Afghanistan and what policy and decisions has it adopted in relation to the Khalqi state of Afghanistan, he said it could be expressly stated that the success of the workers' and progressive revolution in Afghanistan had most adversely affected the reactionary circles of Pakistan and has been cause for sorrow to the reactionary circles of Pakistan. But on the contrary, the success of the workers' revolution of Afghanistan has been welcomed warmly and joyously by the informed elements and toiling peoples of Pakistan and they fully support the revolution of Afghanistan.

These factors led Pakistan to, with the assistance of the imperialist countries, for forestalling the freedom movements of Pushtuns and Baluchis and other toiling peoples of Pakistan [words indistinct], to the path of Khalqi revolution of Afghanistan and to intervene directly in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, through espionage activities, subversion and armed aggression and to entrench itself in defense of imperialism and international reaction. But the reactionary circles of Pakistan unaware (?of the) fact that with these inhuman actions, with this reactionary policy and this policy of division, can in no way block the path of freedom movements of Pushtun and Baluchi peoples and progressive elements of Pakistan, or to obstruct the path of revolution of the toiling peoples of Afghanistan [sentence as heard].

One of the security officials of the country told BAKHTAR correspondent that Seyyed Sadiq Shah, former member of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul, presented a petition to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan pertaining to giving up his Pakistani citizenship and acceptance of the citizenship of Afghanistan. For some time Seyyed Sadiq Shah, as one of the members of the Embassy of Pakistan carried out his duties under the supervision of that embassy in Kabul.

It also be noted that after the Great Sawr Revolution considerable victories have been achieved by our Khalqi state in building the new society, free of every kind of exploitation of man by man and that our country is evolving to new society and all these victories castigate the enemies of the people of Afghanistan. Therefore, our enemies tried shamelessly and ummanly interference in the internal affairs of our beloved country and to obstruct the evolution of our Khalqi revolution with a futile reactionary exertion.

These ominous reactionary and shameful plans are also (dividing) the territory of the state of Pakistan. Despite (?our) government's numerous requests by our Khalqi state for prevention of such actions, the Government of Pakistan did not [word indistinct] with all their futile and anti-human attempts perpetrated with the aid of imperialism against Afghanistan, resorted to every means and to create obstacles on the path of Khalqi revolution, made every effort and even made use of acts of espionage against our Khalqi state through the diplomats in its embassy and Seyyed Sadiq Shah, member of the Embassy of Pakistan, was also dispatched to Afghanistan after being especially prepared for the task to collect information and espionage data.

The responsible security forces, the security organ of the country, in order to eliminate his espionage activities, have questioned him thoroughly in the course of which (?data) pertaining to the espionage activities of him and some of his staff the enmity of Pakistan has been revealed.

MEETINGS, MARCHES SUPPORT STATEMENT ON AGGRESSION

LD110215 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 10 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The noble and valorous people of Afghanistan are becoming more determined in their profound support of the recent declaration of the government pertaining to condemnation of the action of the region's reaction and intervention in our internal affairs by celebrating the victorious conclusion of the democratic land reforms and complete census of the country as well as registration of (?their names) for defending the honor of the homeland and for the furtherance of the high objectives of the Great Sawr Revolution.

Thousands of the noble and toiling people of Afghanistan supported by convening of meetings and performing of revolutionary marches in the center of provinces of the country today the declaration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan pertaining to condemnation of the shameless aggression of the reactionary circles of Pakistan and the narrow-minded religious fanatics of Iran on our beloved and sacred soil.

In these meetings and marches it was emphasized that the valorous Afghans have inherited from their fathers and forefathers the characteristics of preservation of national honor, territorial integrity and preservation of the sacred soil of homeland and that the great people of Afghanistan all along this [word indistinct] have dealt fatal blows on the aggressors and colonialists and have won great honors in the history of the region and the world.

FOUR MAJOR REBEL AFGHAN GROUPS ANNOUNCE MERGER

BK130724 Hong Kong AFP in English 13 Aug GMT 0719 79 BK

[Text] Peshawar, north west Pakistan, 13 Aug (AFP)--Four large rebel Afghan organizations fighting the Marxist government in Kabul said today they have joined to form a new movement.

In a communique they named the new force, opposed to Afghan President Nur Mohammad Taraki, as the Teiman Atahad-Islamai, which means those who have sworn to fight for Islam.

The four organisations are the National Liberation Front led by Seghbatullah Mujjaddedi, the Jamiat Islami-Afghanistan led by Professor Bruhranuddin Rabanni, the Movement for the Islamic Revolution headed by Maulavi Mohammadi, and the Hezbi Islami of Maulavi, Mohammed Yunus Khales.

They said the union was agreed on Saturday to permit "better coordination of Moslem fighters" and achieve greater unity on the path to "the foundation of an Islamic republic based on the Koran and Sunna".

NEW CITIZENSHIP CARDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

GF120900 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 11 Aug 79 GF

[Text] The distribution of citizenship cards for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will start toward the end of the current month of August in various districts of Kabul city and thereafter in the provinces. The seminar pertaining to this program has opened this morning at the library of the Ministry of Interior by the president of the population registration of that ministry. The concerned staff will provide all the needed facilities for the people in accordance with the new citizenship card distribution regulations with a new, revolutionary spirit and a sense of real service to the noble people of Afghanistan. The new citizenship cards of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are so designed that they will assure better than the previous such cards the identity of the person. The seminar that will cover important technical issues concerning the distribution of new citizenship cards and the problems inherent in it is attended by the chiefs of various zones of the population registration in Kabul and the provinces.

TEXT OF ISLAMIC SCHOLARS' DECLARATION ON KHALQI STATE

LD122310 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Excerpts] As promised last night in our program, we now bring you the English text of a statement of the Jirga of Jamayat-i-Ulema of Afghanistan:

In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. Here is the statement of the meeting of the General Jirga of Islamic Ulema of Afghanistan:

We, the members of the meeting of the General Jirga of Islamic Ulemas of Afghanistan, who have been witnessing the actions, behavior, the deeds and accomplishments of our state since the success of the Great Sawr Revolution, have realized with all certainty that the present state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is the servant of God and the people of God, and the servant of the poor and destitute, savior and protector of the sacred religion of Islam and the Mohammadan Shari'at.

Speeches and admonitions are carried on the radio and television every morning and evening and all the time about the preachings of the sacred religion of Islam and Mohammadan Shari'at. In the mosques preaching is done on a vast scale, more freely as compared with the past. During the month of Ramadan in all mosques of the Kabul city and the provinces [word indistinct] of holy Koran recite the holy book in [word indistinct] prayers are offered. In short, all the religious rituals and practices are carried out without any (?defect). Furthermore, during the period of more than (15) months which (?has) passed since the coming of the regime, actions have been taken in accordance with the sacred religion of Islam. Several decrees have been issued which are in concord with Islam prohibiting usury and bribery, which are contrary to the tenets and real spirit of the (?clean) Mohammadan Shari'at.

Therefore, obedience (?of such a state) and its leader [words indistinct] Islam on one hand and his actions and (?behavior) are in accordance with the provisions of Shari'at (?are obligatory and [word indistinct] as this verse of holy Koran says, obey God, the prophets and your rulers, especially when the rulers and organizers of your affairs are the servants and protectors of religion and religious people. Thank God that the present rulers of our state are armed with these good qualifications. Therefore, any disobedience to the orders and instructions of this type of state is against the provision of the above holy verse of Koran and every resilience, resistance and subversive act against it is undoubtedly an uprising, and those who resort to such acts against Muslim state serving the people are raiders and insurgents and their elimination is legal and fighting them is in accordance with the provision of this verse of holy Koran which says: if one clan or tribe rebels against the other, then fight until the clan and tribe which rebels as long as they return to the order of God, that is, to obedience and submission.

Therefore we, the members of the General Meeting of the Islamic Ulema of Afghanistan, call on all the distinguished ulema of our dear country and our orthodox Muslim people to resist, fight and kill rebels and these insurgents according to the verses of holy Koran, Hadith of Prophet Muhammad and in line with the provisions of the (?clean) Mohammadan Shari'at. And wherever you find them, arrest them and eliminate them because it is true in practice that these claimants of Islam and these Ekhwan Ash-Shayatin are not only a barrier to the progress and advancement of our Islamic country, Afghanistan, and disobedient to the orders and instructions of the state which are in compliance with the provisions of Islam, but they also commit hundreds of anti-Islamic, immoral and inhuman acts, such as killing of innocent women and children, old and disabled men, burning of schools, libraries, destruction of public establishments which have been constructed with the toiling and poor people's money. They do not refrain even from [word indistinct] on the honor of girls and women. Therefore we unanimously declare that these types of rebels and criminals are to be killed according to the order of the Mohammadan Shari'at and jihad is (?obligatory and) [word indistinct] against them with the object to uproot them.

We also declare to the reactionary circles of Pakistan and fanatic religious leaders of Iran who have given refuge to these rebels and enemies of religion in their land and helped them (?there) and incite against our state to carry out subversive acts in our sacred land that these reactionary religious group of Pakistan and Iran who call themselves Muslims are not Muslims, because according to the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad, (?the punishment of these too) is the same on the day of resurrection.

Therefore the reactionary circles of Pakistan and the fanatic religious leaders of Iran share the sin of these rebels in the presence of God and Prophet Muhammad and their acts are against the provisions of the Shari'at of Islam.

Therefore, hereby, we declare to all Muslims and noble people of Afghanistan and the distinguished religious scholars of Afghanistan not to be deceived by the internal and external enemies of the religion, their state, and country and recognize their state and obey its orders and instructions sincerely.

PDPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING 11 AUGUST

LD121434 Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 11 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The Secretariat of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] has reported that the Political Bureau of the PDPA Central Committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of the great leader of the people of Afghanistan, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, at the People's House today. At the outset the great leader and teacher of the people presented a brief report on home and international affairs to the Political Bureau. Later he discussed and adopted necessary decisions on the following:

1. The general situation in the country;

2. The general activities of the party and of government affairs;

3. The role of the party in trade unions.

The meeting lasted from 1100 to 1300.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS UNDER TARAKI

LD121740 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1400 GMT 12 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under the chairmanship of Nur Mohammad Taraki, the great leader of the people of Afghanistan, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], from 0900 to 1200 at the People's House today. At the outset, the beloved leader of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the party Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council, gave a brief report to the Council of Ministers on the country's internal situation and on international matters. Afterwards the Council of Ministers, on the basis of the Interior Ministry's proposal, instructed the Finance Ministry to allocate and transfer 16,135,000 Afghanis from the ordinary standby state budget for the provision of relevant stationery and forms for the issuance of the new identity card marked with the symbol of the DRA.

On the proposal of the Ministry of Mines and Industries, the complementary part of the agreement with the USSR on the delivery of equipment required for geological and exploration work has been approved, and instruction was issued that it be signed.

In addition, the Council of Ministers discussed and adopted decisions on other proposals by some ministries.

BANGLADESH

PAKISTANI REFUGEES, POLICE CLASH NEAR INDIAN BORDER

BK121802 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] It was learned from the latest reports received in Dacca that about 30,000 nonlocals gathered at Syedpur in Rangpur District at the behest of the Central Committee of the (?detained) Pakistanis for a so-called long march to Pakistan through India. They began a procession this morning, violating the prohibitory order of Section 134 imposed by the district authorities. The processionists suddenly became unruly, surrounded the Syedpur police station and attacked it, causing damage to government offices, police station and the other important government installations in the area. Twenty-four policemen and 35 violators were injured due to police baton charges.

The police were forced to use guns to bring the situation under control. Some 122 nonlocals were arrested for violation of Section 134. The deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police of Rangpur rushed to the site immediately. Earlier, some nonlocals were apprehended at Dinajpur for attempting to disrupt law and order there.

GOVERNMENT CALLS ON NONLOCALS NOT TO MARCH TO PAKISTAN

BK121736 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The government has called upon the nonlocals residing in Bangladesh not to resort to the proposed march to Pakistan through India and to exercise patience so that there may be a happy and satisfactory solution to the problems of repatriation. A pressnote issued in Dacca today says any illegal crossing of international border with India will, instead of resolving the problem, adversely affect the interests of those who are organizing or participating in the march.

The pressnote adds: The government therefore will in no circumstances allow the nonlocals to cross the border and has accordingly already taken all necessary steps to prevent them from undertaking such a hazardous step.

The pressnote says: The government has sympathy for the nonlocals and will do whatever is possible in its power to help resolve their reasonable grievances and alleviate their sufferings.

INDIA

INDIAN, PAKISTANI TROOPS EXCHANGE FIRE AT BORDER

BK121554 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 12 (AFP)--Intermittent exchange of fire between Pakistani troops and India's security forces is continuing since Wednesday near Guntaryan village in the Poonch border area, on the western sector, PTI NEWS AGENCY reported here today.

PTI said, quoting official sources, some Indian villagers were cutting grass near the actual line of control on that day when the Pakistani troops opened fire on them from across the line.

Earlier on August 1, PTI said, the Pakistani troops had trespassed into the Indian side and dragged away two women and one man to the Pakistani territory while they were cutting grass.

SINGH MESSAGE TO HAQ EXPRESSES DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS

BK121025 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Charan Singh, has said that India attaches great importance to the strengthening of relations and building up its ties with its neighbors. In a message to President Xiaul Haq of Pakistan thanking him for his felicitations on his becoming the prime minister of India, Mr Charan Singh said that his government will endeavor to promote goodneighborly relations between the two countries. This will not only benefit the peoples of both countries but will also help in promoting peace and stability in the region.

SECURITY TIGHTENED ALONG BORDER WITH BANGLADESH

BK110315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has tightened security measures along the country's entire border with Bangladesh in view of the reported threat by Pakistani refugees stranded in Bangladesh to go to Pakistan through India on the 14th of this month. This follows the government's decision yesterday to seal its border with Bangladesh for the next few days.

The deputy director general of the BSF, Mr H. P. Bhatnagar, said that similar steps are also being taken by the Bangladesh Rifles. The local commanders of India and Bangladesh are holding a series of flag meetings to forestall any attempt by Pakistani refugees to enter India.

Meanwhile, according to reports reaching BSF headquarters a large number of Pakistani refugees have gathered at Dinajpur, Rangpur, (Saidpur) and)Phulmari) across the border.

PORTFOLIOS OF TWO STATE MINISTERS ANNOUNCED

BK110946 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The portfolios of two more ministers of state have been announced. Tukkaram S. Shrangare will be minister of state in the Ministry of Communications and Mr B. Rachaiah, minister of state in the Ministry of Industry. The announcement was made in a communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan [presidential residence] today.

Further Portfolio Designations

BK130940 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The portfolios of two more ministers of state have been announced. Mr Bedabrata Barua will be the minister of state for external affairs and Mr Ankinaidu Prasada Rao of civil aviation and tourism.

MORE THAN 1,000 KILLED IN GUJARAT FLASH FLOODS

BK130906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 79 BK

[Text] Rescue and relief operations by the military and the civil authorities are in full swing in the flood-affected areas of Morvi and (Malia) Talukas [subdistricts] of Rajkot District, the scene of the worst floods during the last 50 years. About 1,000 persons are reported to have lost their lives in the areas in the gushing waters following a breach in the Machu Dam No 2. A large number of houses have collapsed and many more damaged. According to the flood control cell in Ahmedabad the flood waters have receded in Morvi. The town was under 3 meters of water yesterday.

PRIME MINISTER DENIES SANCTIONING JAGUAR DEAL

BK101627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister has emphatically denied that the Jaguar deal was sanctioned by him as finance minister. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Charan Singh said the leader of the opposition, Mr Jagjivan Ram's, remarks yesterday that the Jaguar deal was sanctioned by him as finance minister is a blatant untruth. Mr Charan Singh, however, said that he is not expressing any judgment on the merits of the decision to purchase Jaguars.

Explaining his position, the prime minister said the decision to place orders for the Jaguars was taken last October when he was not a minister. He said any further reference to the Finance Ministry at a later stage was thus a mere formality.

SINGH, BAHUGUNA PATCH UP EARLIER DIFFERENCES

BK101626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 79 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Charan Singh and Finance Minister Bahuguna have said in a joint statement that the earlier misunderstandings between them have now been replaced by complete understanding. They have common ground and forged a common front to fight what they called the fascist forces represented by the Jan Sangh and the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh]. Their statement referred to the reports in a section of the press about letters written by them to Mr Morarji Desai when he was the prime minister. They said the disagreement between them in regard to evaluation of national issues in the past were well known. They have some differences in these areas even now, but they are more of emphasis than of a basic nature.

Mr Charan Singh and Mr Bahuguna said the Jan Sangh and the RSS were and are a common enemy to both of them. The new alliance they have now forged is committed to improve the lot of the rural and the urban poor. It is also to establish a new federal order and to advance toward a more constructive partnership between the center and the state. The two leaders said they are today united for a common purpose and this unity will endure.

NARAIN COMMENTS ON CONGRESS-I SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT

BK111001 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The Janata-S chairman, Mr Raj Narain, has said there are no conditions attached to Mrs Gandhi's support to Mr Charan Singh's government and any talks of conditions by her partymen will not behove a leader of Mrs Gandhi's standing.

According to agency reports, Mr Raj Narain said in Bhopal today that if Mrs Gandhi stands by her pledge to fight against communalism and usher in a socialist society she must cooperate with us. According to Mr Raj Narain, the 2 and 1/2 year rule of Mr Morarji Desai has put to shade the experience of authoritarianism during the 19 months of emergency.

Mr Raj Narain said his party's stand is to avoid a mid term poll, but if the situation so warrants, it will fight the elections with courage and vigor.

FERNANDES WANTS SOCIALISTS TO BE NEUTRAL

BK111428 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The former industry minister, Mr George Fernandes, has said that the erstwhile Socialists should withdraw their support both from the Janata Party and the Charan Singh government and remain neutral. Addressing a meeting of Socialists in Bombay, Mr Fernandes said they should support a government on the merit of its program. He pointed out that the people are already impatient and it was not possible to wait long for the realinement of forces.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Madhu Limaye, MP, said over the last few months it was difficult to work in the Janata Party with the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] constantly interfering in the party's decisions. He said the process of realinement has already started and the Socialists must influence the process.

FERNANDES SAYS SOCIALISTS TO SUPPORT SINGH MINISTRY

BK120940 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] Mr George Fernandes has said that the former socialists led by him will support the Charan Singh government when it seeks a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha on the 20th of this month. Mr Fernandes told a meeting of workers in south Bombay that the government should work for the amelioration of the downtrodden. He also suggested limiting the construction activity in cities and diverting the fund for rural housing. He termed as mischievous the charges that he is in alliance with Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Addressing a public meeting Mr Fernandes said the Janata Party must not allow dual membership and bar the RSS [Rashtriya Swaymsevak Sangh] from having any connection with it. He said that this is the only way for the party to survive and launch afresh its fight for secular and democratic ideals. He said that he is not against the RSS continuing with its program. But the RSS has no place in the Janata Party. On the freedom of Religion Bill, the former minister said it had caused a lot of hatred among the minorities.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES LUSAKA CONFERENCE

BK111638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr S.N. Mishra, today asserted that India did not sponsor any candidate for the post of Commonwealth secretary general at the Lusaka conference. He emphasized that there was no question of the Indian delegation having bungled in the matter.

Mr Mishra, who returned to New Delhi this morning, was addressing newsmen about the outcome of the Commonwealth summit. He maintained that the name of the foreign secretary, Mr Jagat Mehta, was not mentioned at any stage and therefore the question of withdrawing it did not arise. In fact, there was no contest for any process of election for secretary generalship. India, he said, was not concerned with individuals, but only wanted a set of principles to be evolved for governing appointments to such a high level post. All the other member countries also agreed that there was need for guidelines on the subject.

The minister described the Lusaka plan on Rhodesia as the most important achievement of the Commonwealth summit. He said the agreements belied the fears of those who had predicted failure of this burning problem. India welcomed the agreement though it entered caveat on certain points.

We went along with the frontline states who are all agreed on the plan. But we stressed the urgency of implementing the agreement, for which he wanted a time-frame of 3 months. The responsibility now is on Britain, Mr Mishra added.

CONGRESS-I HOLDS BALANCE OF POWER IN UTTAR PRADESH

BK121002 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] The newly elected leader of the Uttar Pradesh Janata Legislature Party, Mr Raj Mangal Pandey, said that no government in the state could function without the support of the Congress-I. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow, he said that the Congress-I should see which party could give the state a clean and stable government.

PAKISTAN

FOREIGN OFFICE REJECTS KABUL REPORT OF EMBASSY DEFECTION

BK121702 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 79 BK

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Office in Islamabad today described as totally incorrect the Kabul Radio report that a staff member of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul had defected from the embassy and sought Afghan citizenship. The spokesman said that Sadiq Shah was in fact kidnaped 6 weeks ago but Pakistan had withheld the news of his kidnaping in the interest of bilateral relations. Some other officials of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul have been harassed on several occasions and subjected to excesses and illegal confinement.

The Afghan ambassador in Islamabad was summoned by the Foreign Office on 28 June and a strong protest was lodged in respect to these incidents of kidnaping and harassment. These cases were also brought to the notice of the Afghan deputy foreign minister, Mr Shah Mohammad Dost, during his visit to Islamabad last month. The Foreign Office spokesman regretted that instead of releasing Sadiq Shah, who has been held illegally by the Afghan Government against his will, the Afghan Government has chosen to publicize the matter in a manner detrimental to the relations between the two countries. Moreover, completely baseless propaganda has been launched against Pakistan alleging interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The spokesman said that Sadiq Shah was forced to make statements under duress, and that the motive was to concoct evidence in order to sustain their baseless allegations against Pakistan's involvement in the Bela Hesar Revolt.

The spokesman also categorically denied that Pakistan diplomats in Kabul were engaged in espionage activities against the Afghan Government. The spokesman further said that in the interest of friendly relations between the two countries, the Pakistan Government refrained from giving any publicity to the cases of those Afghan officials who sought political asylum in Pakistan, nor did it exploit the issue for political purposes. The spokesman pointed out that apart from the former Afghan consul general in Pakistan, Mr (Mohammad Hakim Sarbaland), 150,000 other Afghan nationals, including prominent persons, have taken political asylum in Pakistan.

The spokesman expressed the hope that the Afghan Government would treat the personnel of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul in accordance with international diplomatic practice and refrain from harassing them in the future. The Government of Pakistan further expects that Mr Mohammad Sadiq Shah will be released. The Government of Pakistan also hopes that the Afghan Government will respond positively to its gesture and will not test its patience to an extent where it will be left with no choice but to abandon its policy of restraint.